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MICKEY MOUSE

MM

MYSTERY MAGAZINE

ANDERVILLE

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Direttore responsabile:
Paolo Cavaglione.

Redazione:
Aldo Vitali (caporedattore centrale),
Ezio Sisto (caporedattore sceneggiature),
Simone Stenti (caposervizio sceneggiature),
Santo Scarcella, Barbara Schwartz, Gabriella Valera.

Art Director:
Aldo Carrier Ragazzi.

Redazione grafica e artistica:
Vito Notarnicola (caposervizio), Luana Ballerani,
Emanuela Fecchio, Gabriela Lovati,
Cristina Meroni, Max Monteduro,
Beatrice Pallavicini, Patrizia Zardo.

Segreteria di direzione:
Monica Gazzoli.

Segreteria di redazione:
Mila Botton (responsabile), Emma Venturini.

Coordinamento estero:
Silvia Figini (responsabile), Paola Tirelli.

Hanno collaborato:
Francesco Artibani, Stefano Attardi, Silvio Camboni,
Andrea Cagol, Davide Catenacci, Alessio Coppola,
Gianfranco Cordara, Marco Ghiglione,
Corrado Mastantuono, Roberta Migheli, Paolo Mottura,
Lorenzo Pastrovicchio, Sandro Perina, Roberto Santillo,
Claudio Sciarrone, Alessandro Sisti, Roberto Vian,
Lorenzo Viganò, Silvia Ziche.

Progetto editoriale: Ezio Sisto, Simone Stenti.
Grafica: Aldo Carrier Ragazzi, Luana Ballerani,
Cristina Meroni, Max Monteduro.

ANDERVILLE
Sceneggiatura: Tito Faraci.
Disegni: Giorgio Cavazzano.
Lettering: Fiorenza Gallazzi.

The Walt Disney Company Italia Spa

Presidente:
Umberto Virri.

Direttore generale:
Gianni Crespi.

Direttore divisione periodici:
Mauro Lepore.

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Direzione: Matteo Cascinari.
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Pubblicità
Direzione: Paola Gonella.
Advertising manager: Daniela Gnocchi.

Produzione
Direzione: Franco Zanaboni.
Coordinamento: Domenica Viviani, Nadia Cucco,
Alessandro Peruggia.

Divisione periodici Disney - via Sandro Sandri 1
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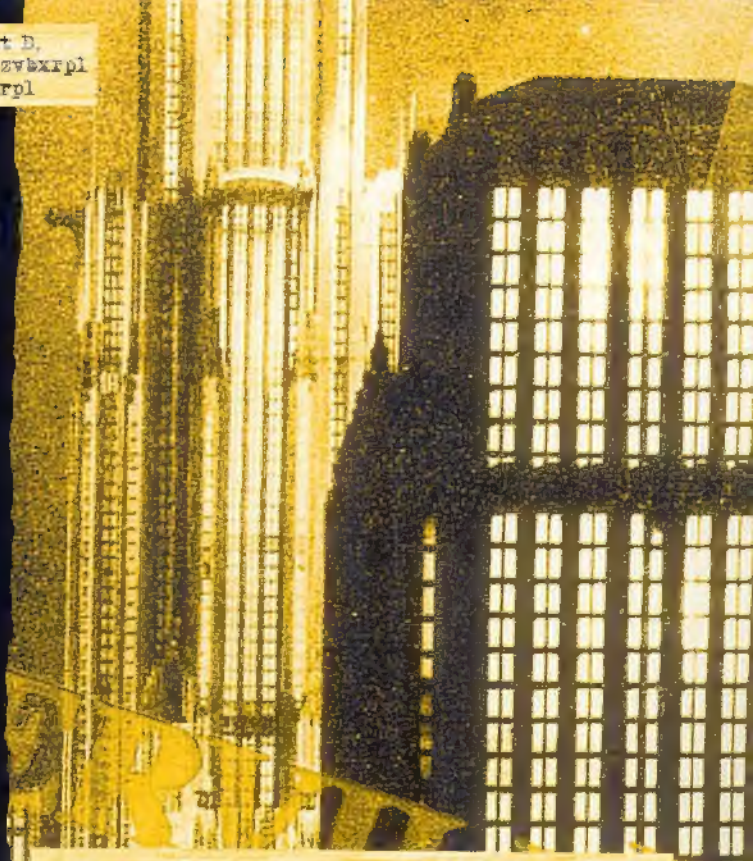

Strange city, Anderville. The name sounds a little like "under". Indeed in Anderville many things happen underneath. We could be xxxxx in the Forties, but the Louisiana style desks welcome personal computers and in those old cars reside satellite navigators. Streets and neighborhoods have a thousand faces and a thousand personalities, they pulse and breathe, and they're the main characters. Even xxxxx Anderville dwellers are strange, and do strange things. Then there's him. An ironic and xxxxx problematic hero who is facing an unknown world, where almost nothing is what it seems. A frantic microcosm, where it's hard to tell friend from foe. Here, the shopping is done and the fire is lit. Enjoy your meal.

BON HENRY cafe
1ère ELECTRIC LIGHT
IN ANDERVILLE
IN MEMORY OF AN
AGE OF INVENTIONS
AND PROGRESS THAT
SHALL NEVER END
THUNK
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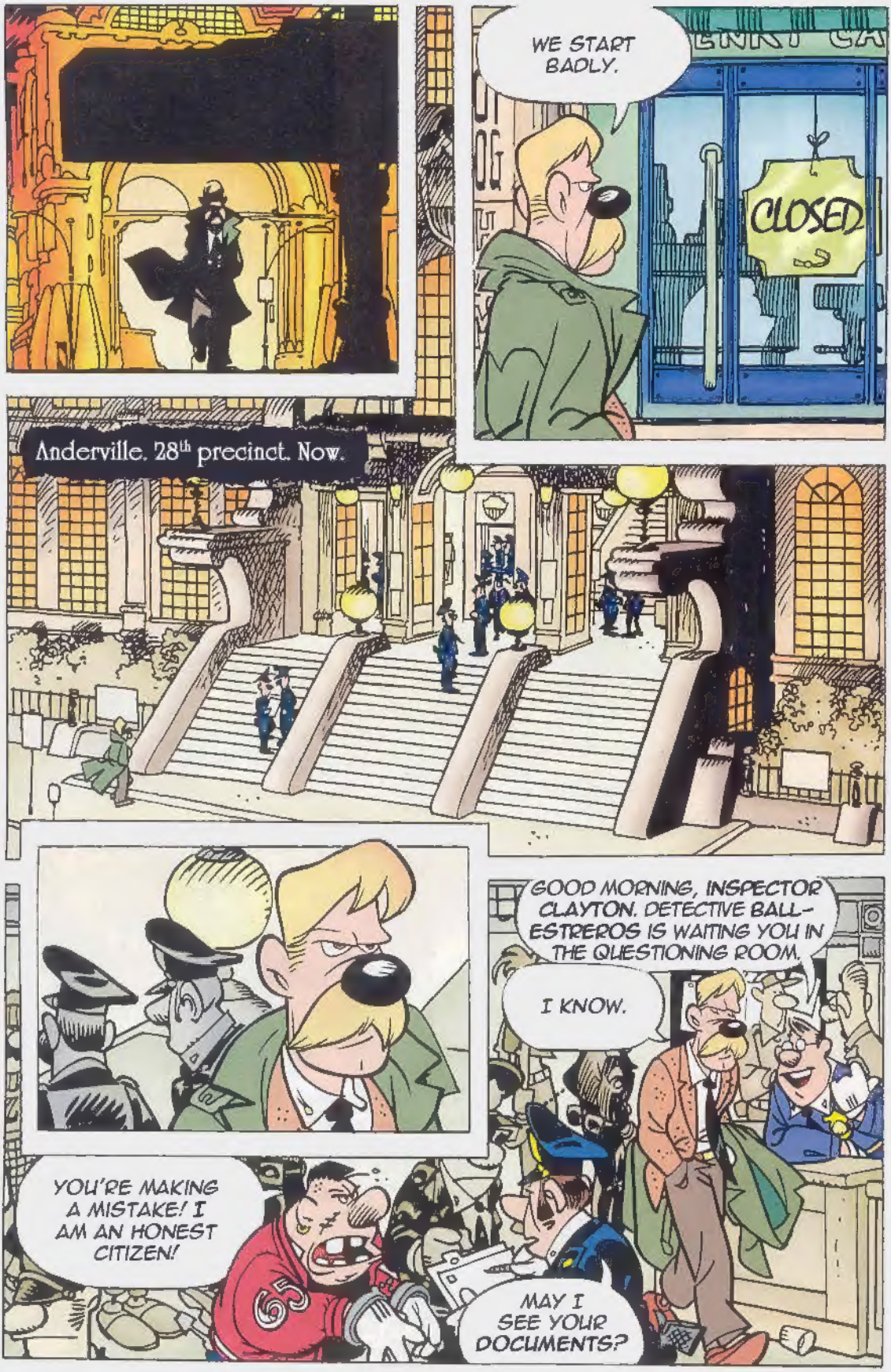
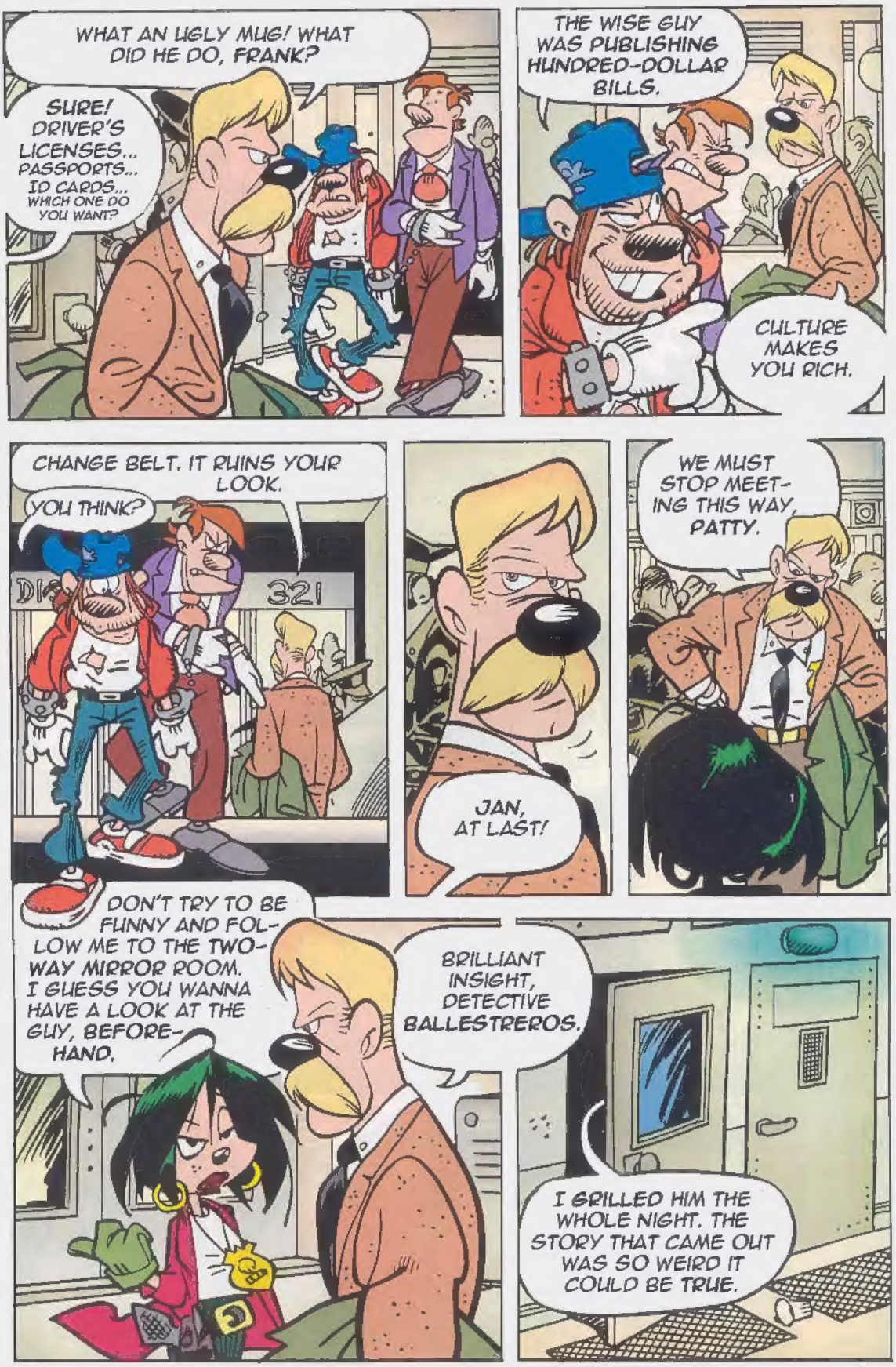
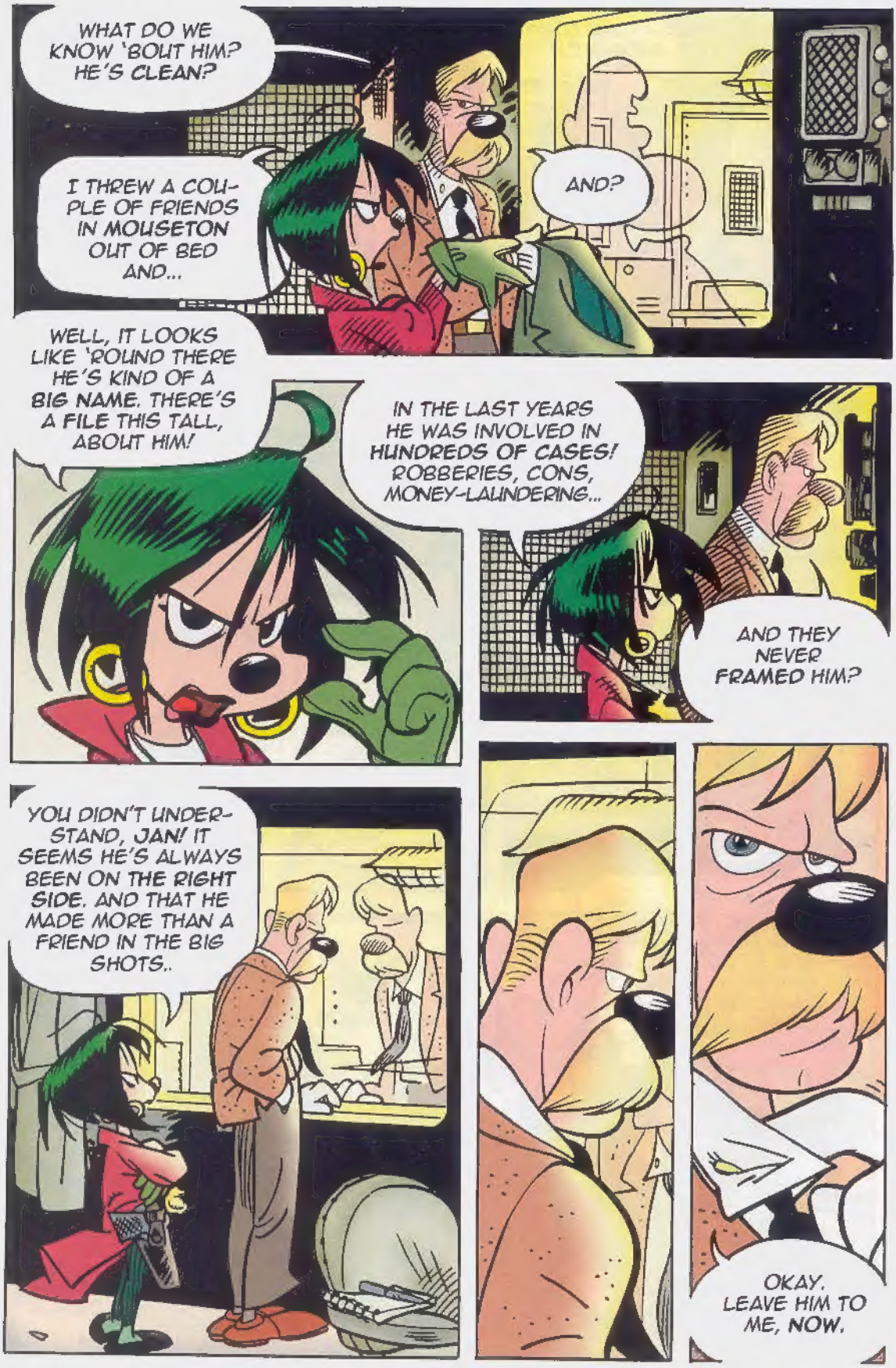
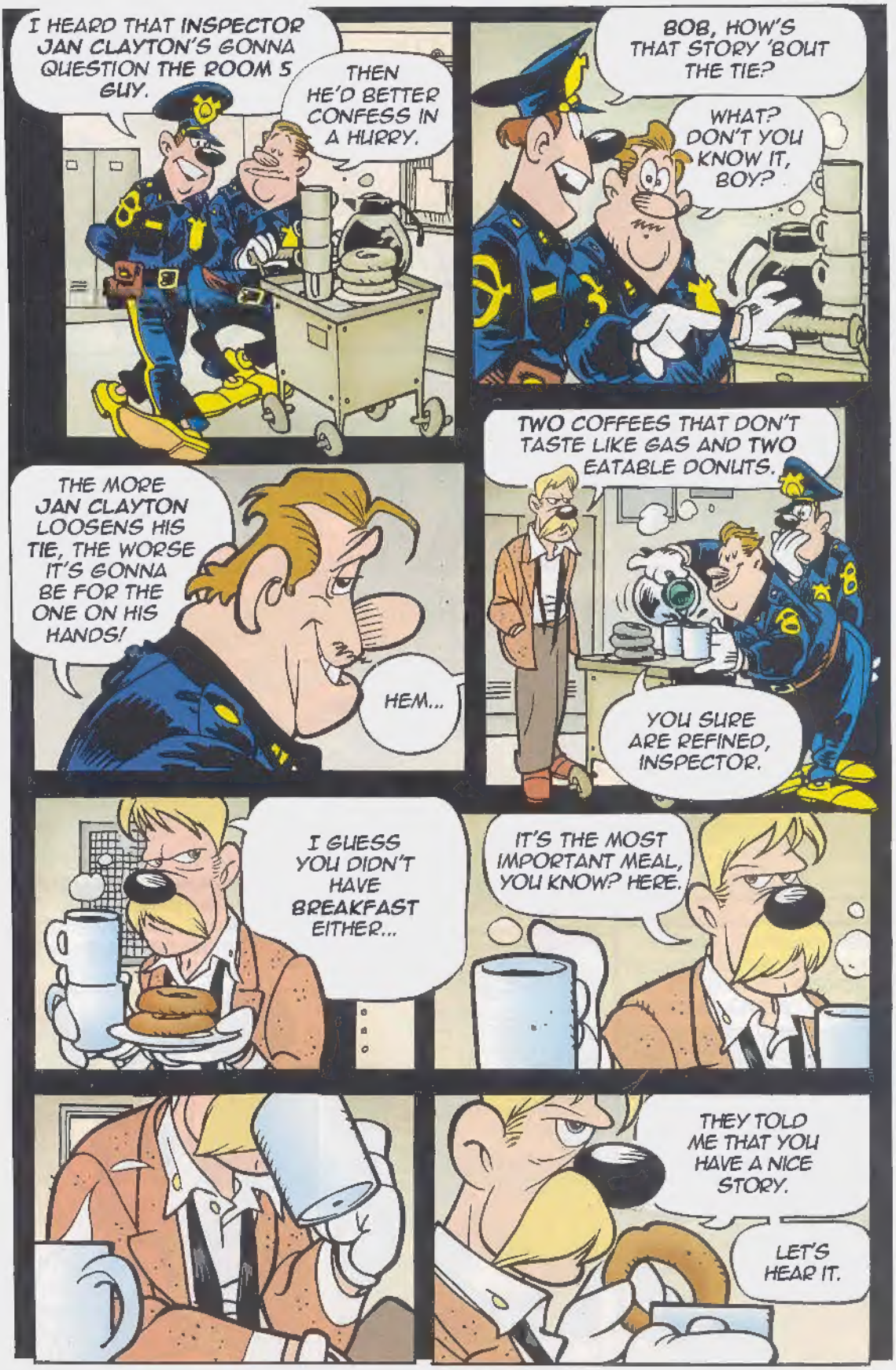
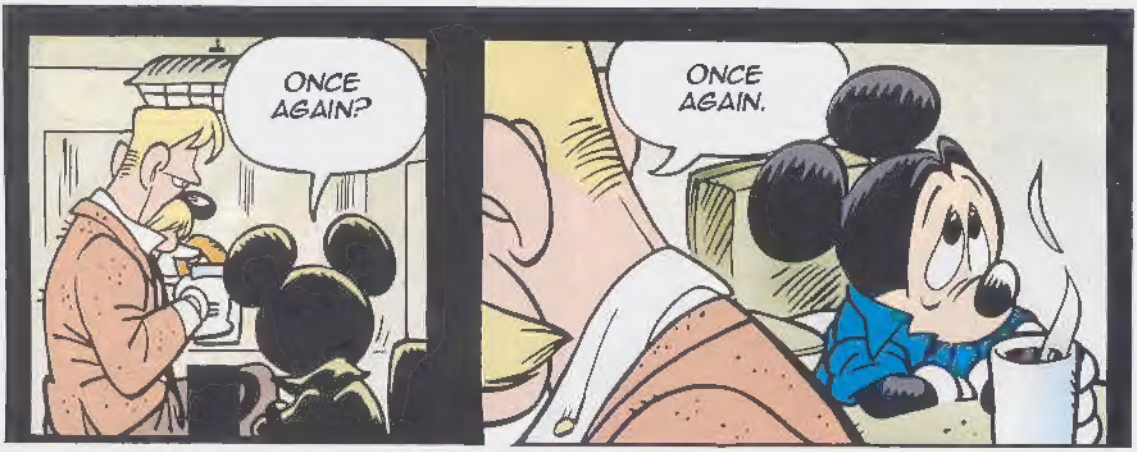
M.M.O


WE START BADLY.
CLOSED
Anderville. 28th precinct. Now.
GOOD MORNING, INSPECTOR CLAYTON. DETECTIVE BALL-ESTREROS IS WAITING YOU IN THE QUESTIONING ROOM.
I KNOW.
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! I AM AN HONEST CITIZEN!
MAY I SEE YOUR DOCUMENTS?


WHAT AN UGLY MUG! WHAT DID HE DO, FRANK?
SURE! DRIVER'S LICENSES... PASSPORTS... ID CARDS... WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT?
THE WISE GUY WAS PUBLISHING HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILLS.
CULTURE MAKES YOU RICH.
CHANGE BELT. IT RUINS YOUR LOOK.
YOU THINK?
321
JAN, AT LAST!
WE MUST STOP MEETING THIS WAY, PATTY.
DON'T TRY TO BE FUNNY AND FOLLOW ME TO THE TWO-WAY MIRROR ROOM. I GUESS YOU WANNA HAVE A LOOK AT THE GUY, BEFOREHAND.
BRILLIANT INSIGHT, DETECTIVE BALLESTREROS.
I GRILLED HIM THE WHOLE NIGHT. THE STORY THAT CAME OUT WAS SO WEIRD IT COULD BE TRUE.

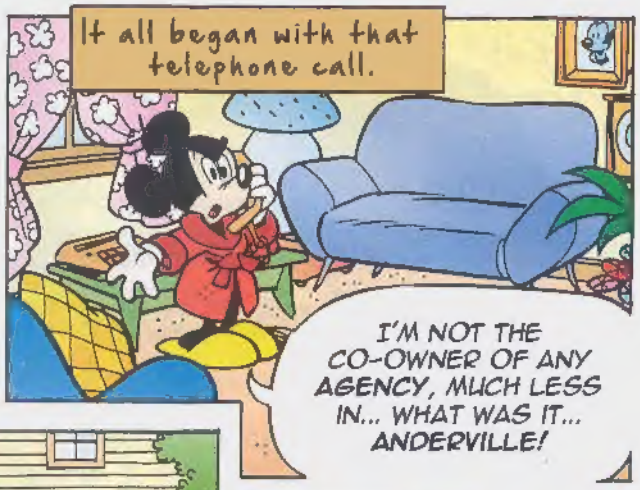

WHAT DO WE KNOW 'BOUT HIM? HE'S CLEAN?
I THREW A COUPLE OF FRIENDS IN MOUSETON OUT OF BED AND...
AND?
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE 'ROUND THERE HE'S KIND OF A BIG NAME. THERE'S A FILE THIS TALL, ABOUT HIM!
IN THE LAST YEARS HE WAS INVOLVED IN HUNDREDS OF CASES! ROBBERIES, CONS, MONEY-LAUNDERING...
AND THEY NEVER FRAMED HIM?
YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND, JAN! IT SEEMS HE'S ALWAYS BEEN ON THE RIGHT SIDE. AND THAT HE MADE MORE THAN A FRIEND IN THE BIG SHOTS..
OKAY. LEAVE HIM TO ME, NOW.

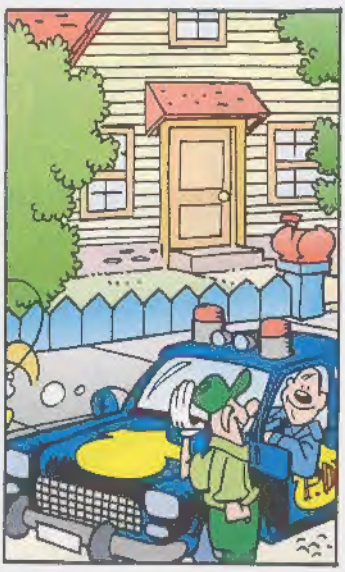

I HEARD THAT INSPECTOR JAN CLAYTON'S GONNA QUESTION THE ROOM 5 GUY.
THEN HE'D BETTER CONFESS IN A HURRY.
BOB, HOW'S THAT STORY 'BOUT THE TIE?
WHAT? DON'T YOU KNOW IT, BOY?
THE MORE JAN CLAYTON LOOSENS HIS TIE, THE WORSE IT'S GONNA BE FOR THE ONE ON HIS HANDS!
HEM...
TWO COFFEES THAT DON'T TASTE LIKE GAS AND TWO EATABLE DONUTS.
YOU SURE ARE REFINED, INSPECTOR.
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T HAVE BREAKFAST EITHER...
IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL, YOU KNOW? HERE.
THEY TOLD ME THAT YOU HAVE A NICE STORY.
LET'S HEAR IT.

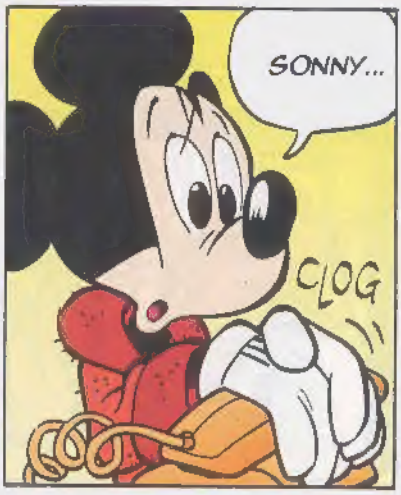


WALT DISNEY

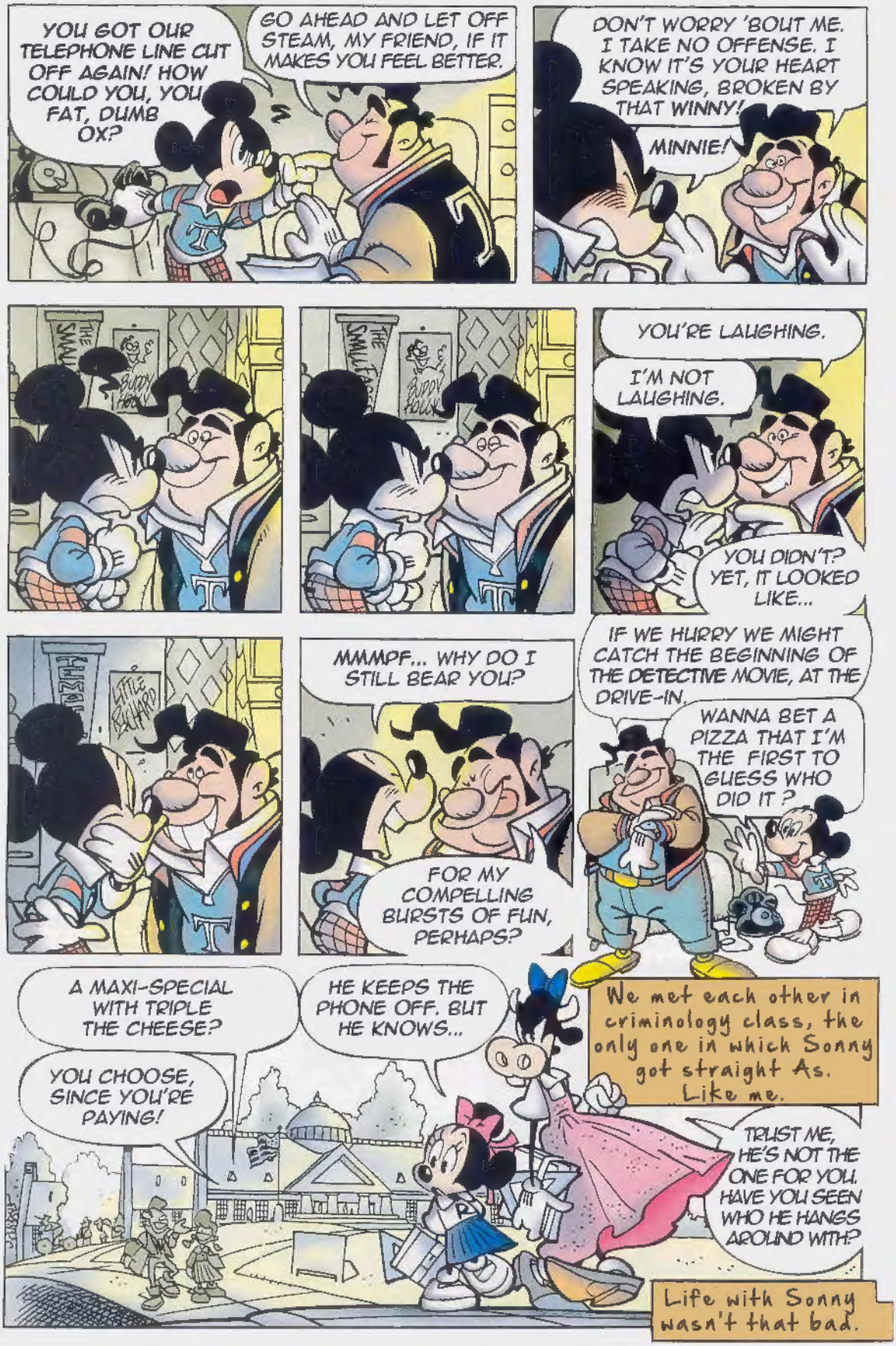
ANDERVILLE

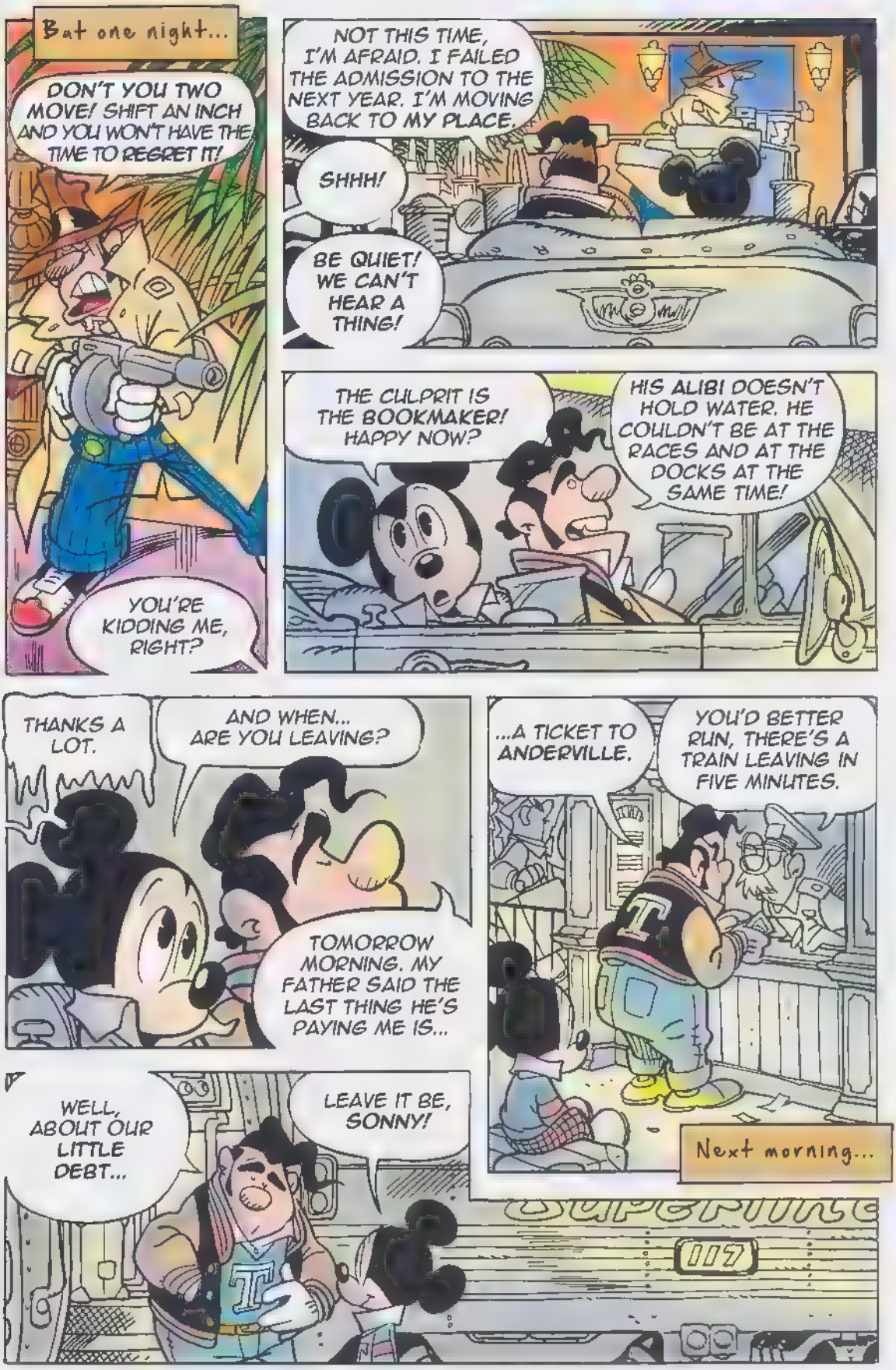






SONNY!
WHAT'S UP, MICKEY? YOU'RE STANDING GUARD OVER THE PHONE?
SHE ISN'T CALLING. STILL SHE TOLD ME...
ALL THE BETTER! LISTEN TO ME, SHE'S NOT YOUR TYPE. IT CAN'T WORK.
WITH THAT NAME... WHAT IS IT? MILLY, TIMMY...
Mouseton, university campus. Fifteen years ago.
Sonny Mitchell and I shared a "palace" of a few square inches, back in college.
MINNIE, HER NAME'S MINNIE.
BAH! YOU WON'T ALREADY REMEMBER HER TOMORROW, TRUST ME!
Sonny held himself in very high esteem.
He was the only one to.
THERE'S NO TONE.
NOTHING EVER WORKS IN THIS CITY. LET ALONE THE TELEPHONE COMPANY!
He wasn't from Mouseton, but he didn't remind it more than a thousand times a day.
I DID WELL NOT TO PAY THE BILL, IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS.
WHAT?!
His way of handling the kitty was rather casual, at best.


YOU GOT OUR TELEPHONE LINE CUT OFF AGAIN! HOW COULD YOU, YOU FAT, DUMB OX?
GO AHEAD AND LET OFF STEAM, MY FRIEND, IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME. I TAKE NO OFFENSE. I KNOW IT'S YOUR HEART SPEAKING, BROKEN BY THAT WINNY!
MINNIE!
YOU'RE LAUGHING.
I'M NOT LAUGHING.
YOU DIDN'T? YET, IT LOOKED LIKE...
IF WE HURRY WE MIGHT CATCH THE BEGINNING OF THE DETECTIVE MOVIE, AT THE DRIVE-IN.
WANNA BET A PIZZA THAT I'M THE FIRST TO GUESS WHO DID IT ?
MMMPF... WHY DO I STILL BEAR YOU?
FOR MY COMPELLING BURSTS OF FUN, PERHAPS?
We met each other in criminology class, the only one in which Sonny got straight As. Like me.
A MAXI-SPECIAL WITH TRIPLE THE CHEESE?
HE KEEPS THE PHONE OFF. BUT HE KNOWS...
YOU CHOOSE, SINCE YOU'RE PAYING!
TRUST ME, HE'S NOT THE ONE FOR YOU. HAVE YOU SEEN WHO HE HANGS AROUND WITH?
Life with Sonny wasn't that bad.


But one night...
DON'T YOU TWO MOVE! SHIFT AN INCH AND YOU WON'T HAVE THE TIME TO REGRET IT!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME, RIGHT?
NOT THIS TIME, I'M AFRAID. I FAILED THE ADMISSION TO THE NEXT YEAR. I'M MOVING BACK TO MY PLACE.
SHHH!
BE QUIET! WE CAN'T HEAR A THING!
THE CULPRIT IS THE BOOKMAKER! HAPPY NOW?
HIS ALIBI DOESN'T HOLD WATER. HE COULDN'T BE AT THE RACES AND AT THE DOCKS AT THE SAME TIME!
THANKS A LOT.
AND WHEN... ARE YOU LEAVING?
TOMORROW MORNING. MY FATHER SAID THE LAST THING HE'S PAYING ME IS...
...A TICKET TO ANDERVILLE.
YOU'D BETTER RUN, THERE'S A TRAIN LEAVING IN FIVE MINUTES.
Next morning...
WELL, ABOUT OUR LITTLE DEBT...
LEAVE IT BE, SONNY!
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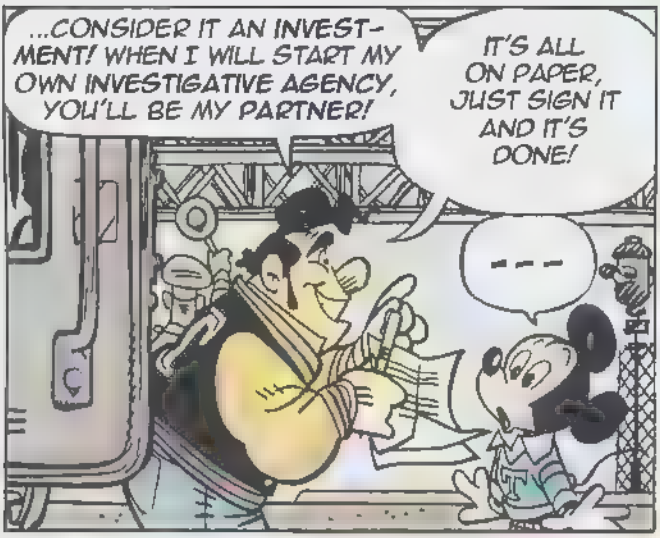
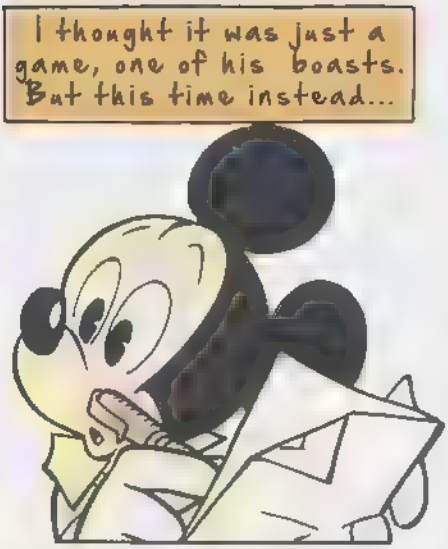
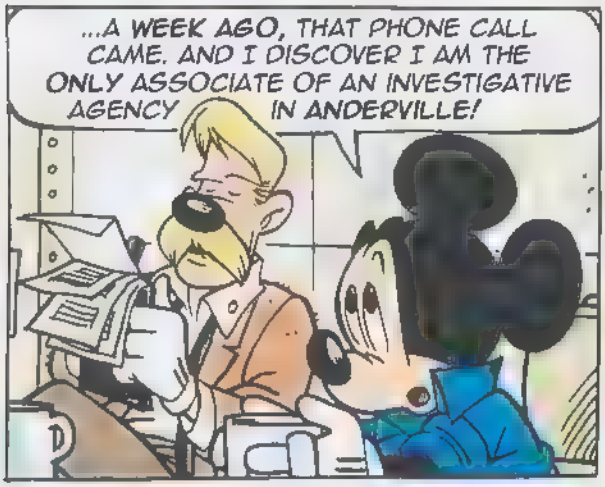
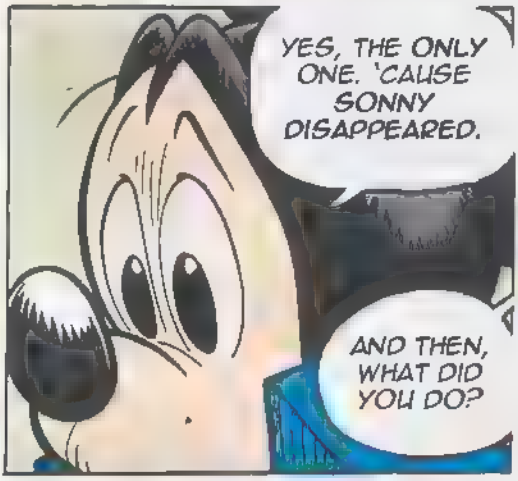

...CONSIDER IT AN INVEST-MENT! WHEN I WILL START MY OWN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY, YOU'LL BE MY PARTNER!
IT'S ALL ON PAPER, JUST SIGN IT AND IT'S DONE!

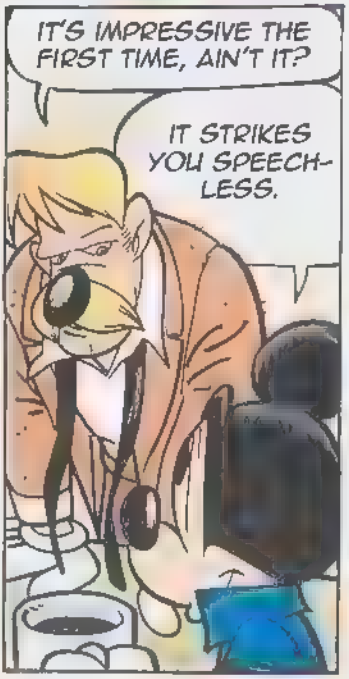

I thought it was just a game, one of his boasts. But this time instead...


...A WEEK AGO, THAT PHONE CALL CAME. AND I DISCOVER I AM THE ONLY ASSOCIATE OF AN INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY IN ANDERVILLE!

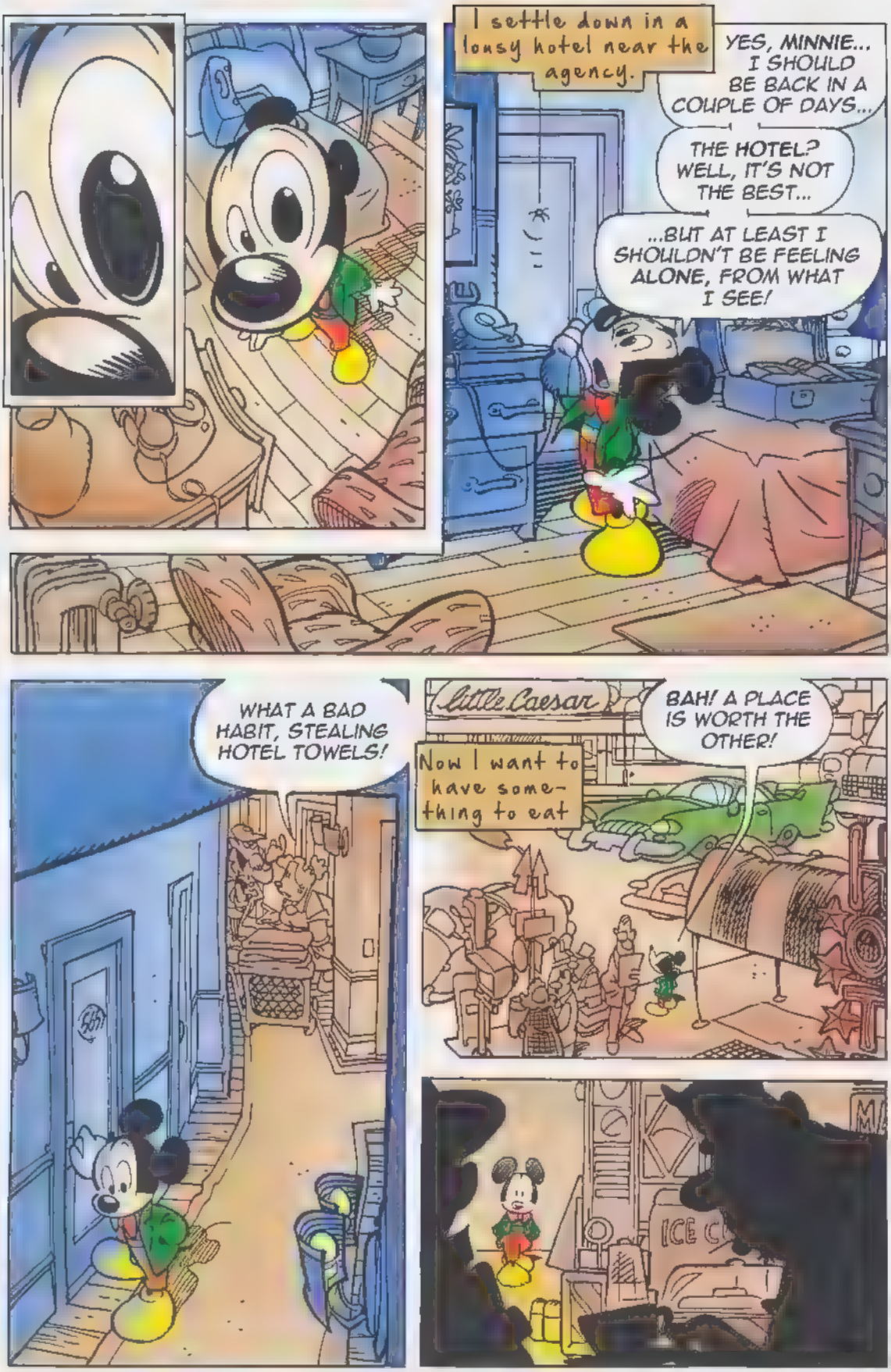

YES, THE ONLY ONE. 'CAUSE SONNY DISAPPEARED.
AND THEN, WHAT DID YOU DO?

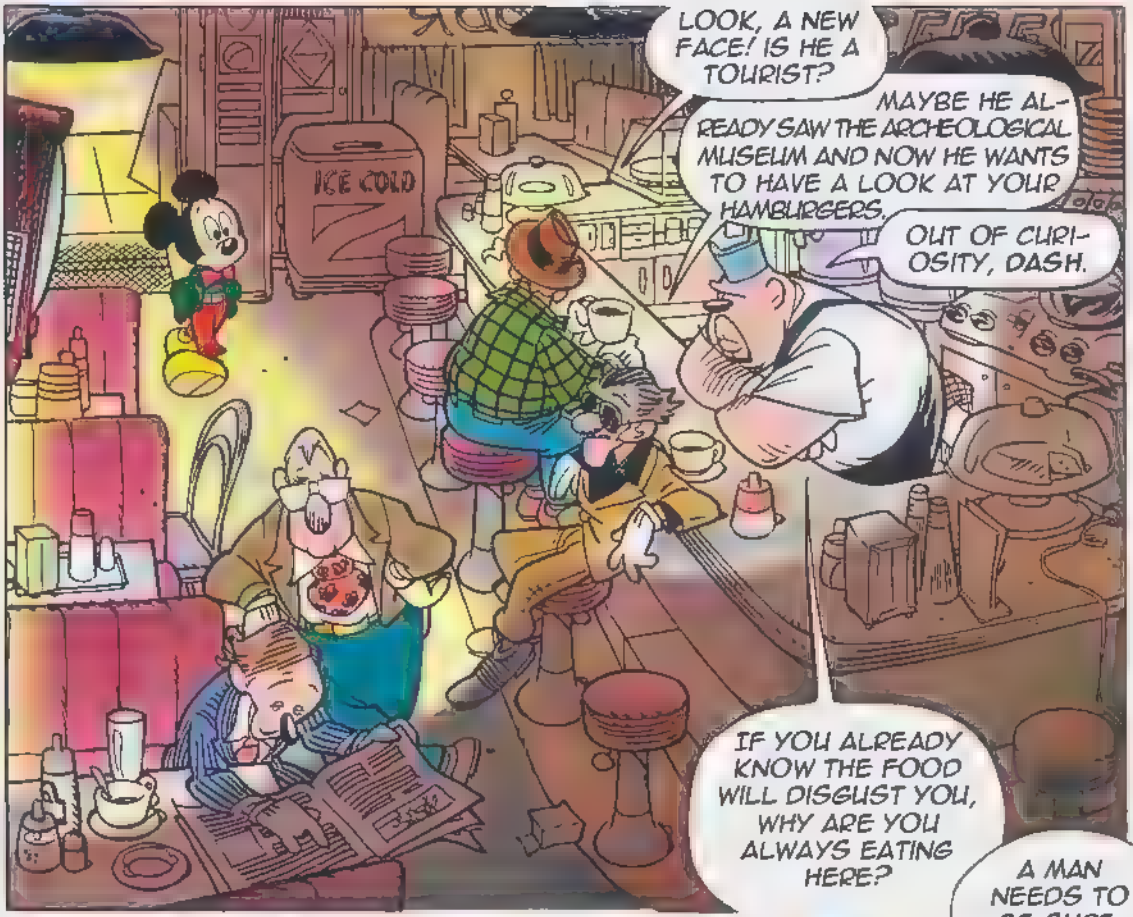
I FEEL THE TIME HAS COME TO GET A LOOK AT ANDERVILLE.

SONNY MUTCHELL'S FILE NOW!

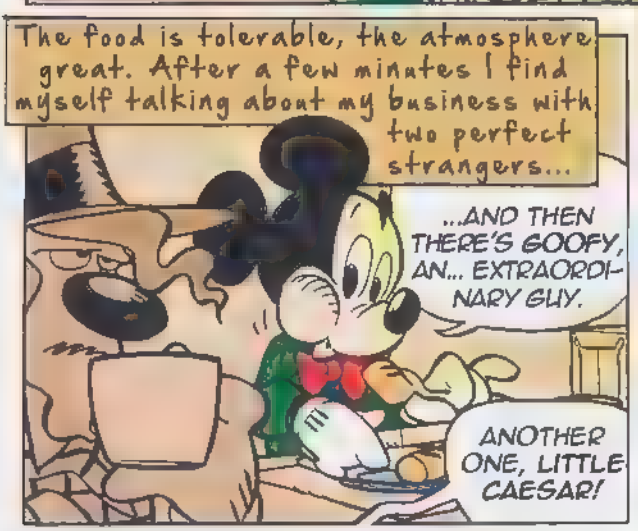

IT'S IMPRESSIVE THE FIRST TIME, AIN'T IT?
IT STRIKES YOU SPEECH-LESS.

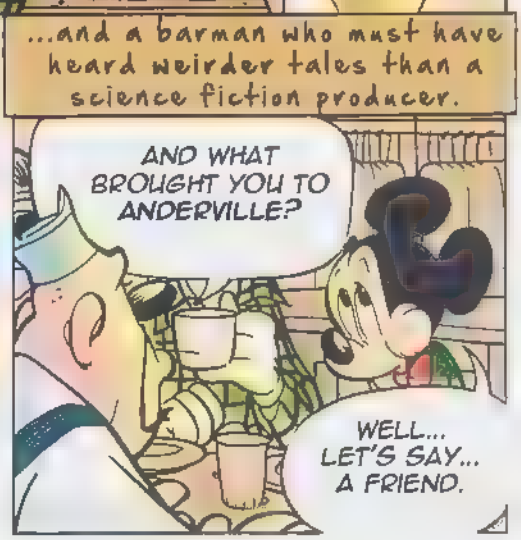
Anderville, Central Station

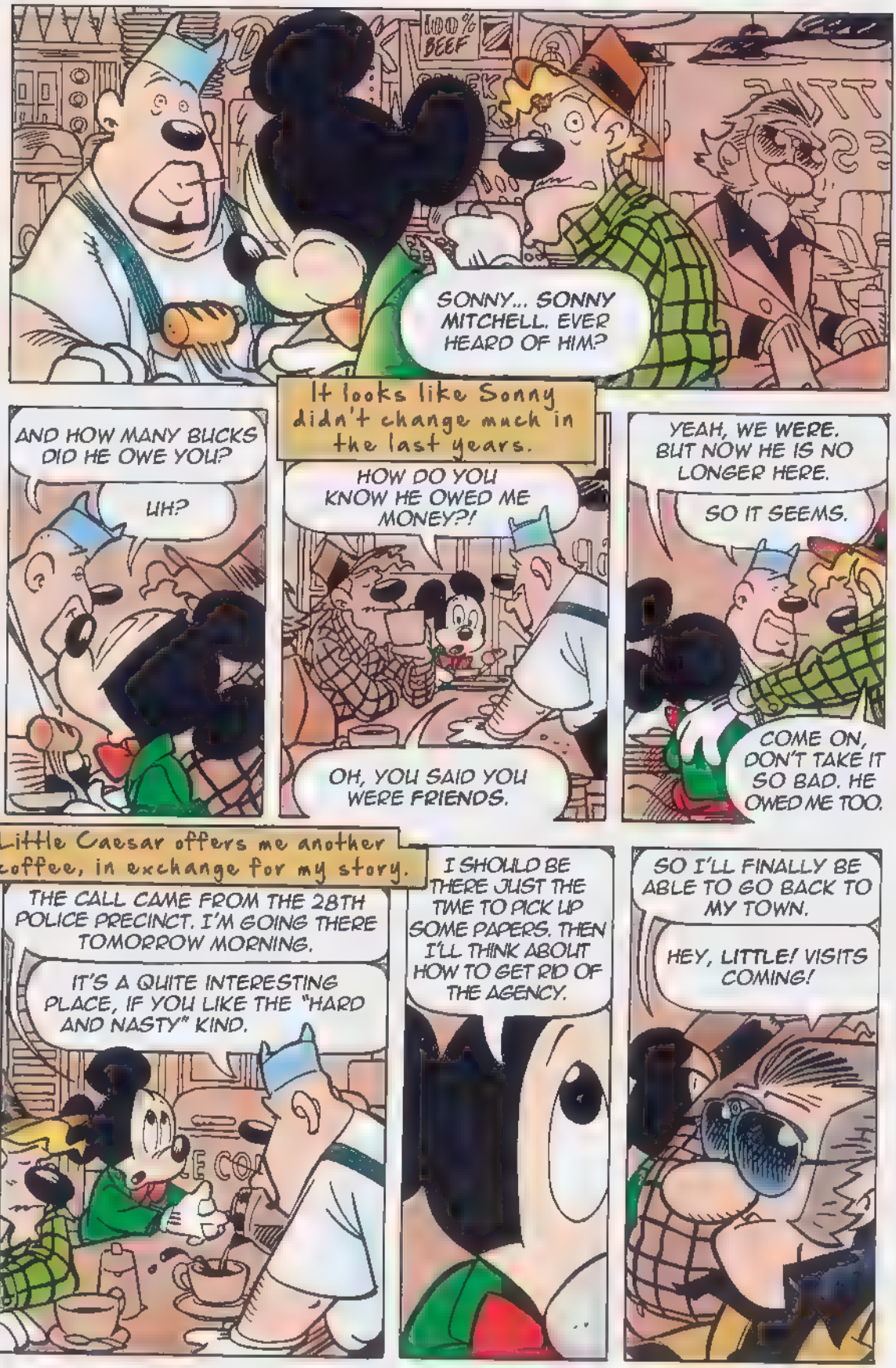

I settle down in a lousy hotel near the agency.
YES, MINNIE... I SHOULD BE BACK IN A COUPLE OF DAYS...
THE HOTEL? WELL, IT'S NOT THE BEST...
...BUT AT LEAST I SHOULDN'T BE FEELING ALONE, FROM WHAT I SEE!
WHAT A BAD HABIT, STEALING HOTEL TOWELS!
Little Caesar
Now I want to have something to eat
BAH! A PLACE IS WORTH THE OTHER!

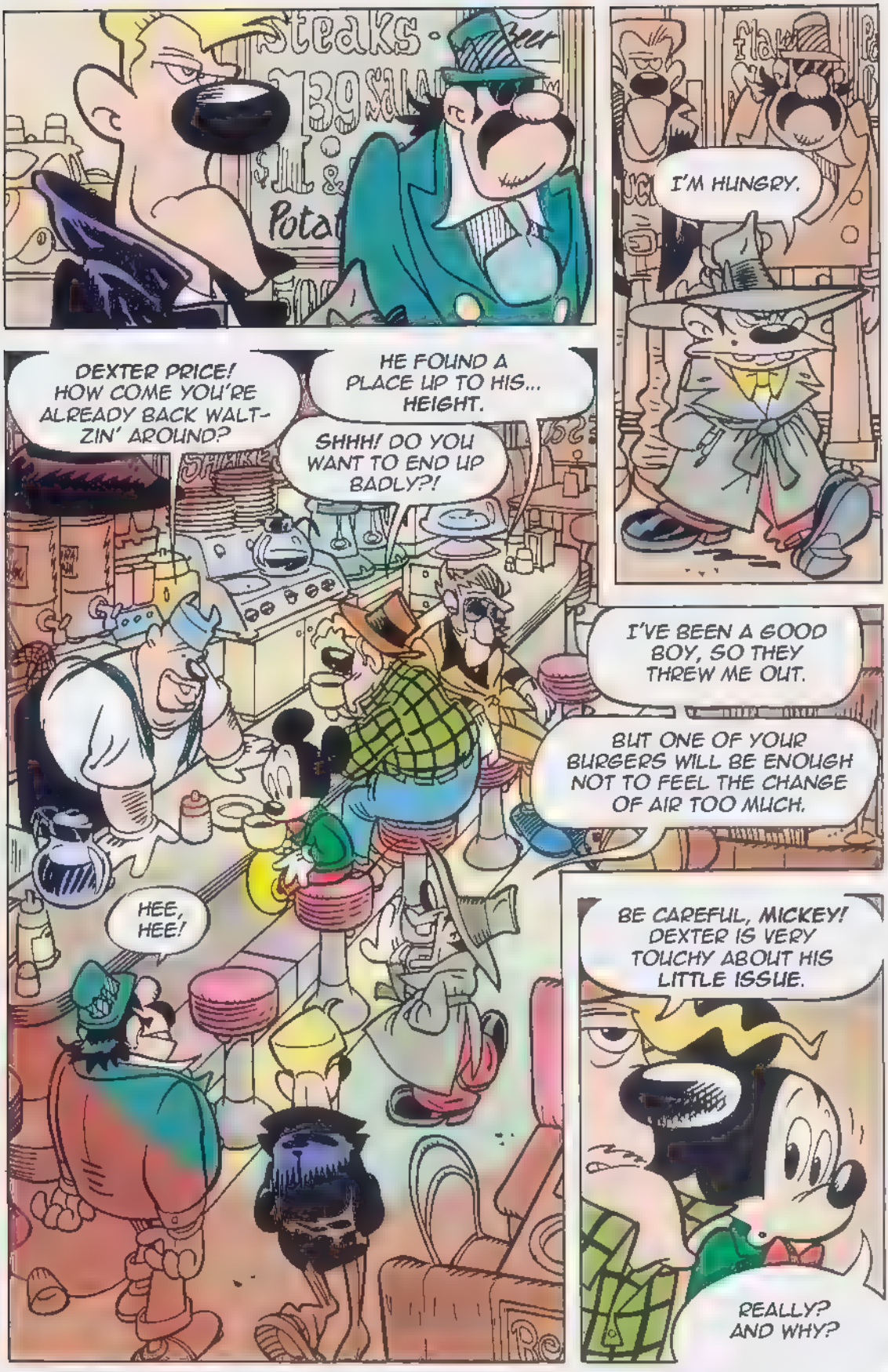

LOOK, A NEW FACE! IS HE A TOURIST?
MAYBE HE ALREADY SAW THE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM AND NOW HE WANTS TO HAVE A LOOK AT YOUR HAMBURGERS.
OUT OF CURIOSITY, DASH.
ICE COLD
IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THE FOOD WILL DISGUST YOU, WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS EATING HERE?
A MAN NEEDS TO BE SURE.

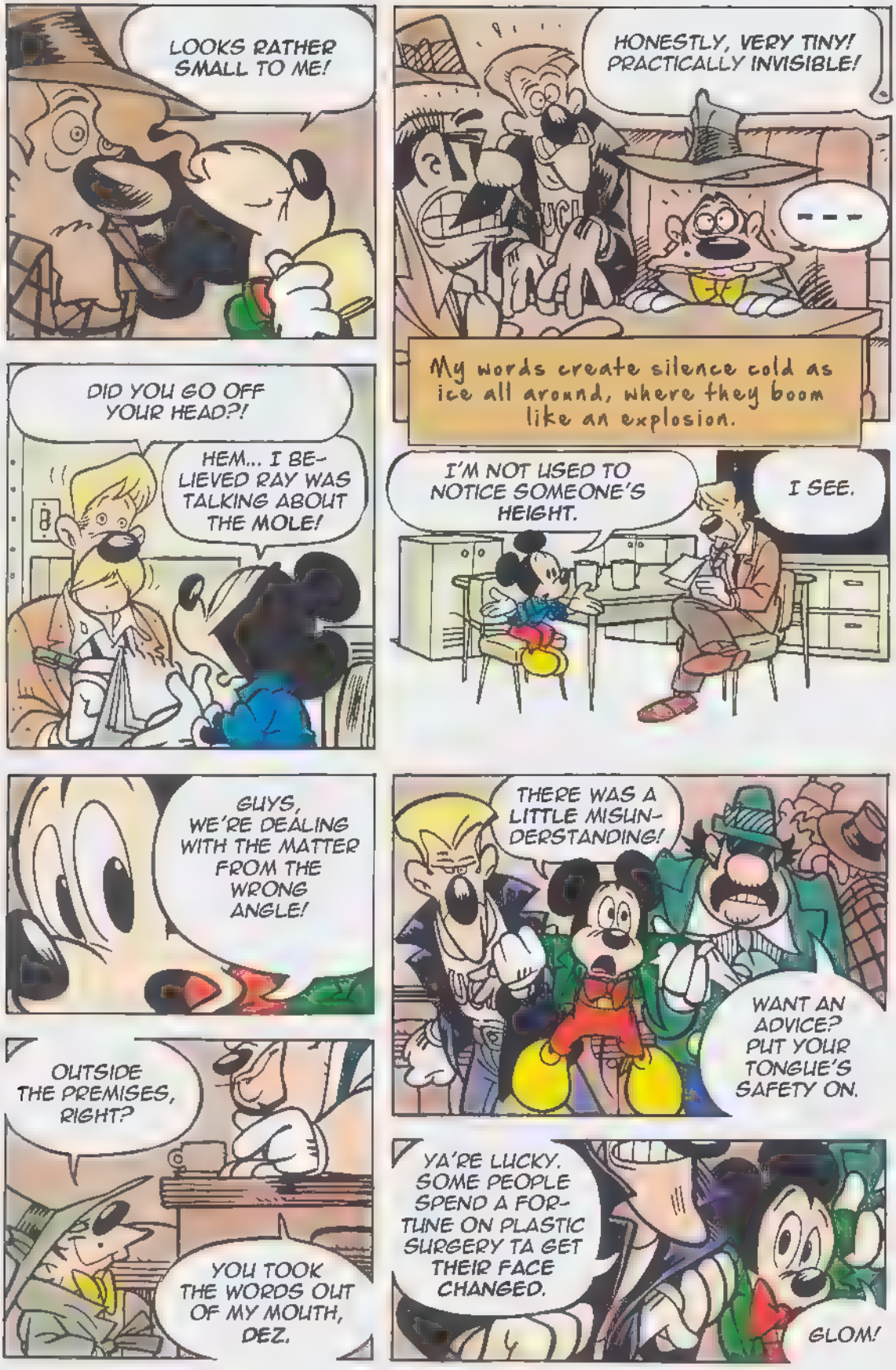
MAY I SIT HERE?
IT'S NO FEDERAL CRIME, I THINK.


The food is tolerable, the atmosphere great. After a few minutes I find myself talking about my business with two perfect strangers...
...AND THEN THERE'S GOOFY, AN... EXTRAORDINARY GUY.
ANOTHER ONE, LITTLE CAESAR!

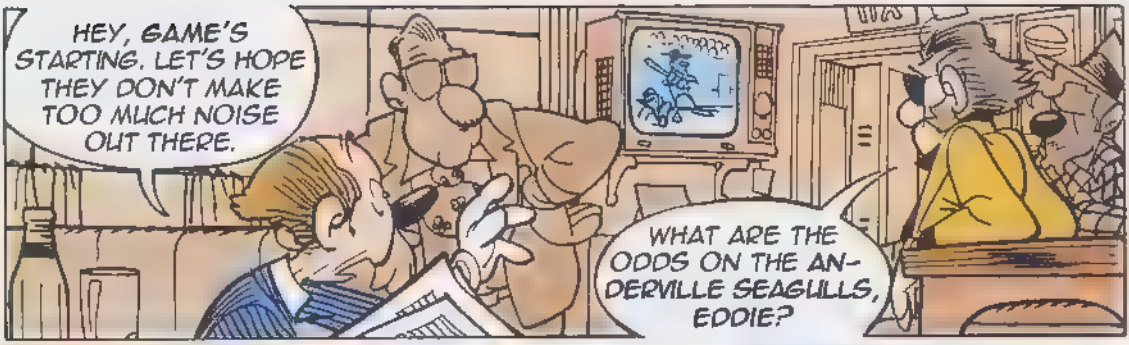

...and a barman who must have heard weirder tales than a science fiction producer.
AND WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO ANDERVILLE?
WELL... LET'S SAY... A FRIEND.

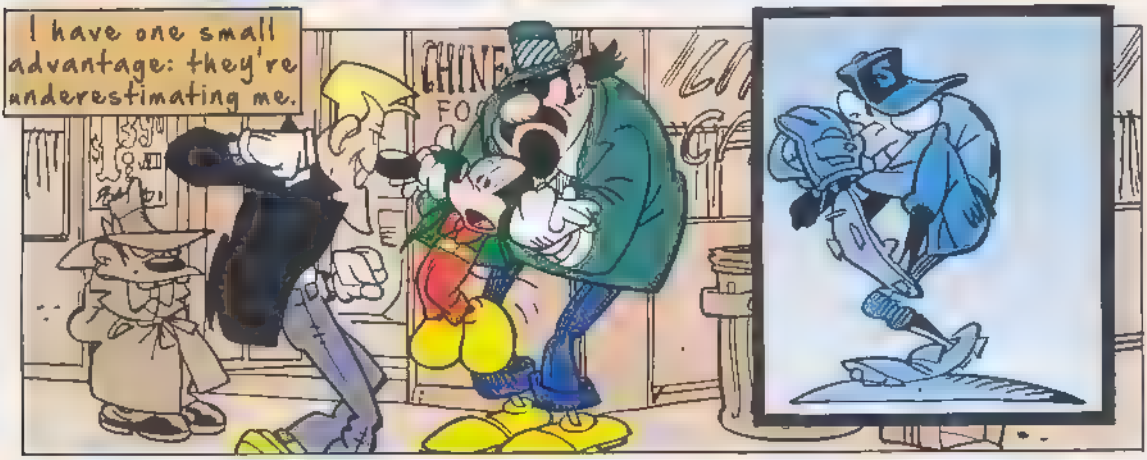

100% BEEF
SONNY... SONNY MITCHELL. EVER HEARD OF HIM?
It looks like Sonny didn't change much in the last years.
AND HOW MANY BUCKS DID HE OWE YOU?
UH?
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE OWED ME MONEY?!
OH, YOU SAID YOU WERE FRIENDS.
YEAH, WE WERE. BUT NOW HE IS NO LONGER HERE.
SO IT SEEMS.
COME ON, DON'T TAKE IT SO BAD. HE OWED ME TOO.
Little Caesar offers me another coffee, in exchange for my story.
THE CALL CAME FROM THE 28TH POLICE PRECINCT. I'M GOING THERE TOMORROW MORNING.
IT'S A QUITE INTERESTING PLACE, IF YOU LIKE THE "HARD AND NASTY" KIND.
I SHOULD BE THERE JUST THE TIME TO PICK UP SOME PAPERS. THEN I'LL THINK ABOUT HOW TO GET RID OF THE AGENCY.
SO I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO MY TOWN.
HEY, LITTLE! VISITS COMING!

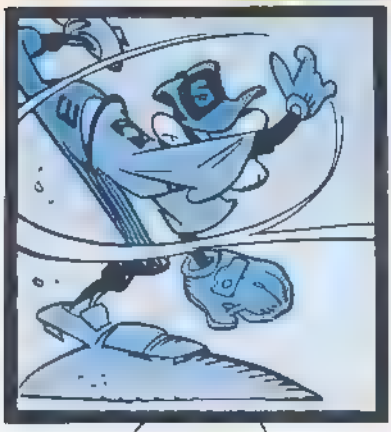

Steaks
Beer
I'M HUNGRY.
DEXTER PRICE! HOW COME YOU'RE ALREADY BACK WALTZIN' AROUND?
HE FOUND A PLACE UP TO HIS... HEIGHT.
SHHH! DO YOU WANT TO END UP BADLY?!
I'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY, SO THEY THREW ME OUT.
BUT ONE OF YOUR BURGERS WILL BE ENOUGH NOT TO FEEL THE CHANGE OF AIR TOO MUCH.
HEE, HEE!
BE CAREFUL, MICKEY! DEXTER IS VERY TOUCHY ABOUT HIS LITTLE ISSUE.
REALLY? AND WHY?

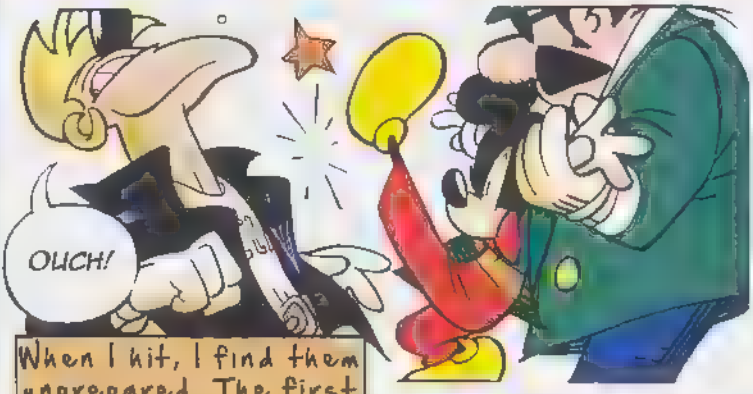

LOOKS RATHER SMALL TO ME!
HONESTLY, VERY TINY! PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE!

My words create silence cold as ice all around, where they boom like an explosion.
DID YOU GO OFF YOUR HEAD?!
HEM... I BELIEVED RAY WAS TALKING ABOUT THE MOLE!
I'M NOT USED TO NOTICE SOMEONE'S HEIGHT.
I SEE.
GUYS, WE'RE DEALING WITH THE MATTER FROM THE WRONG ANGLE!
THERE WAS A LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDING!
WANT AN ADVICE? PUT YOUR TONGUE'S SAFETY ON.
OUTSIDE THE PREMISES, RIGHT?
YOU TOOK THE WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH, DEZ.
YA'RE LUCKY. SOME PEOPLE SPEND A FORTUNE ON PLASTIC SURGERY TA GET THEIR FACE CHANGED.
GLOM!

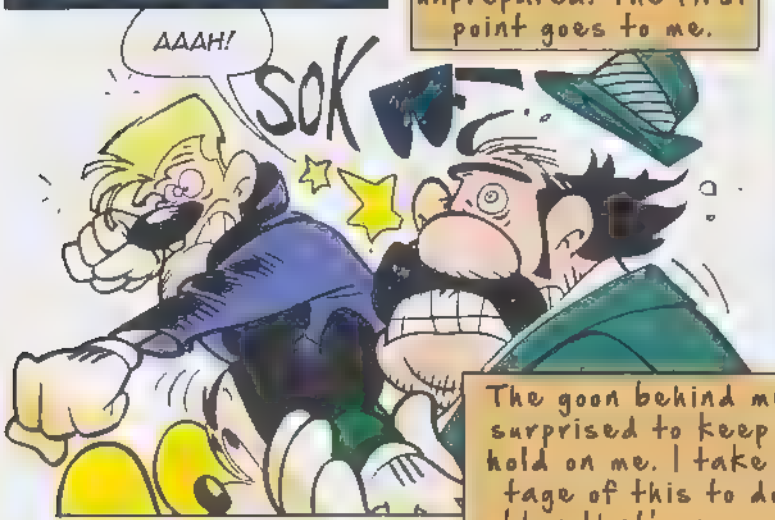


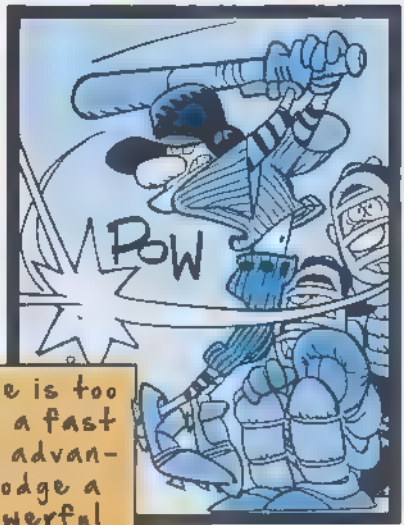






When I hit, I find them unprepared. The first point goes to me.

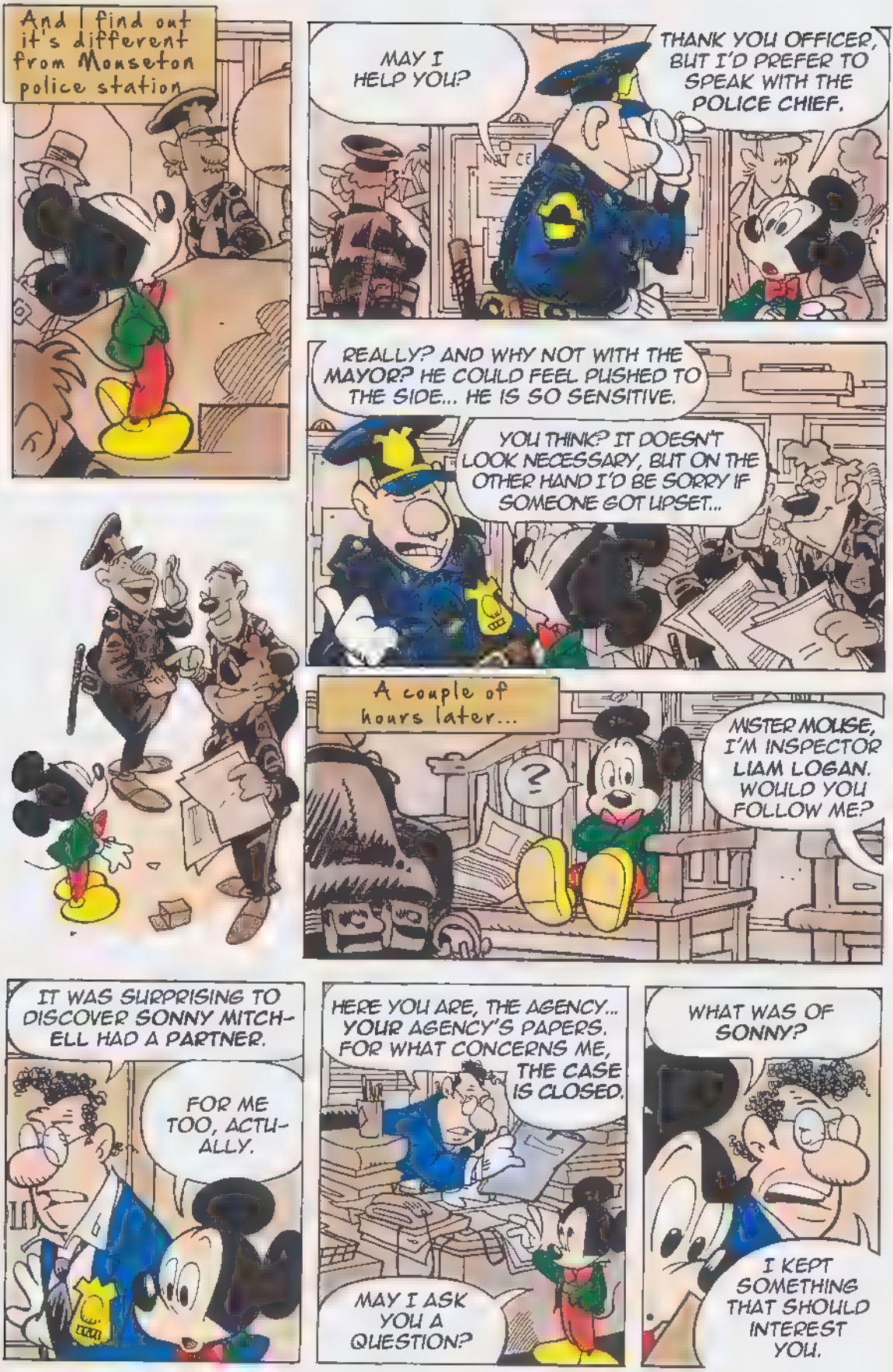


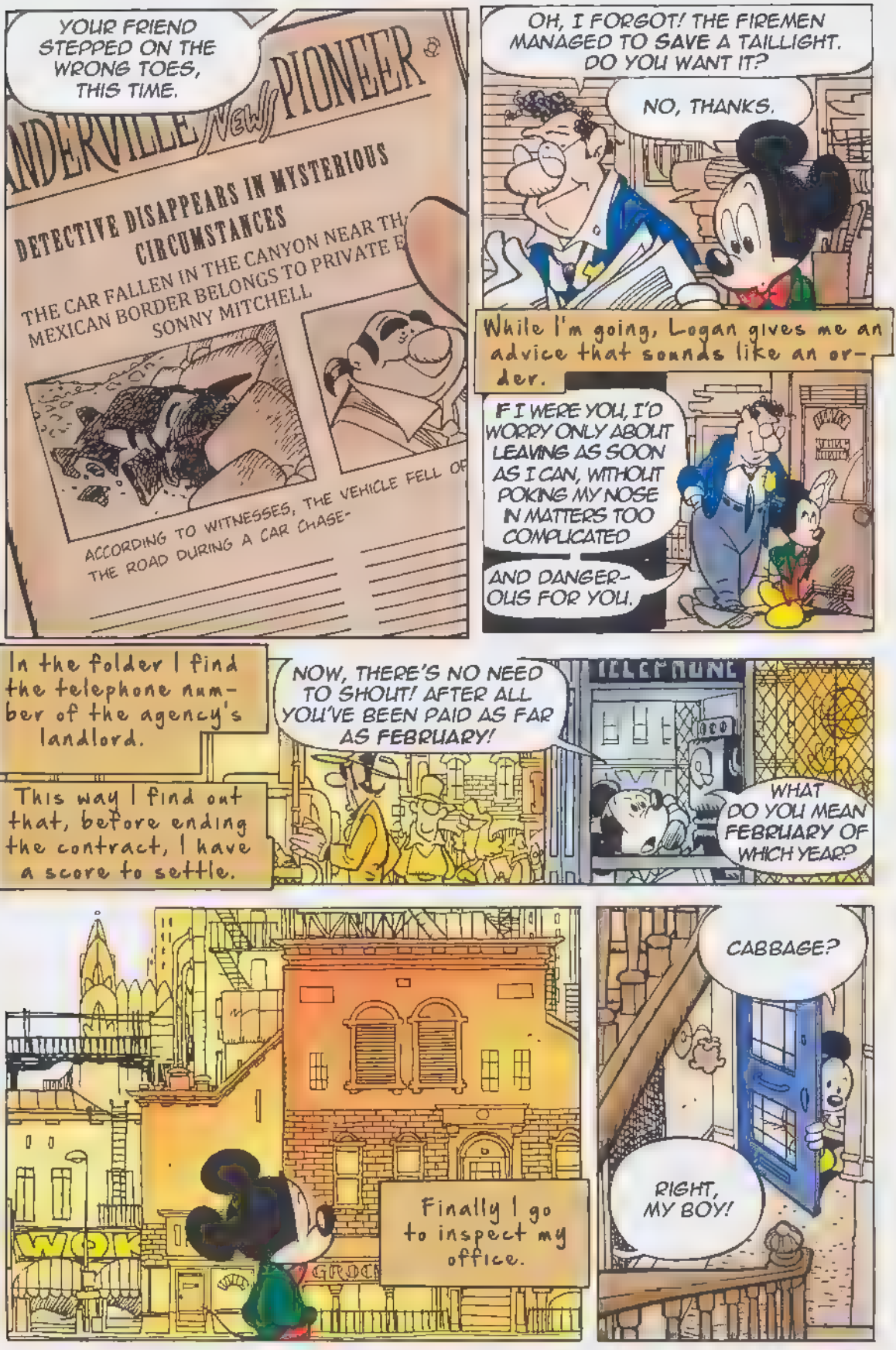


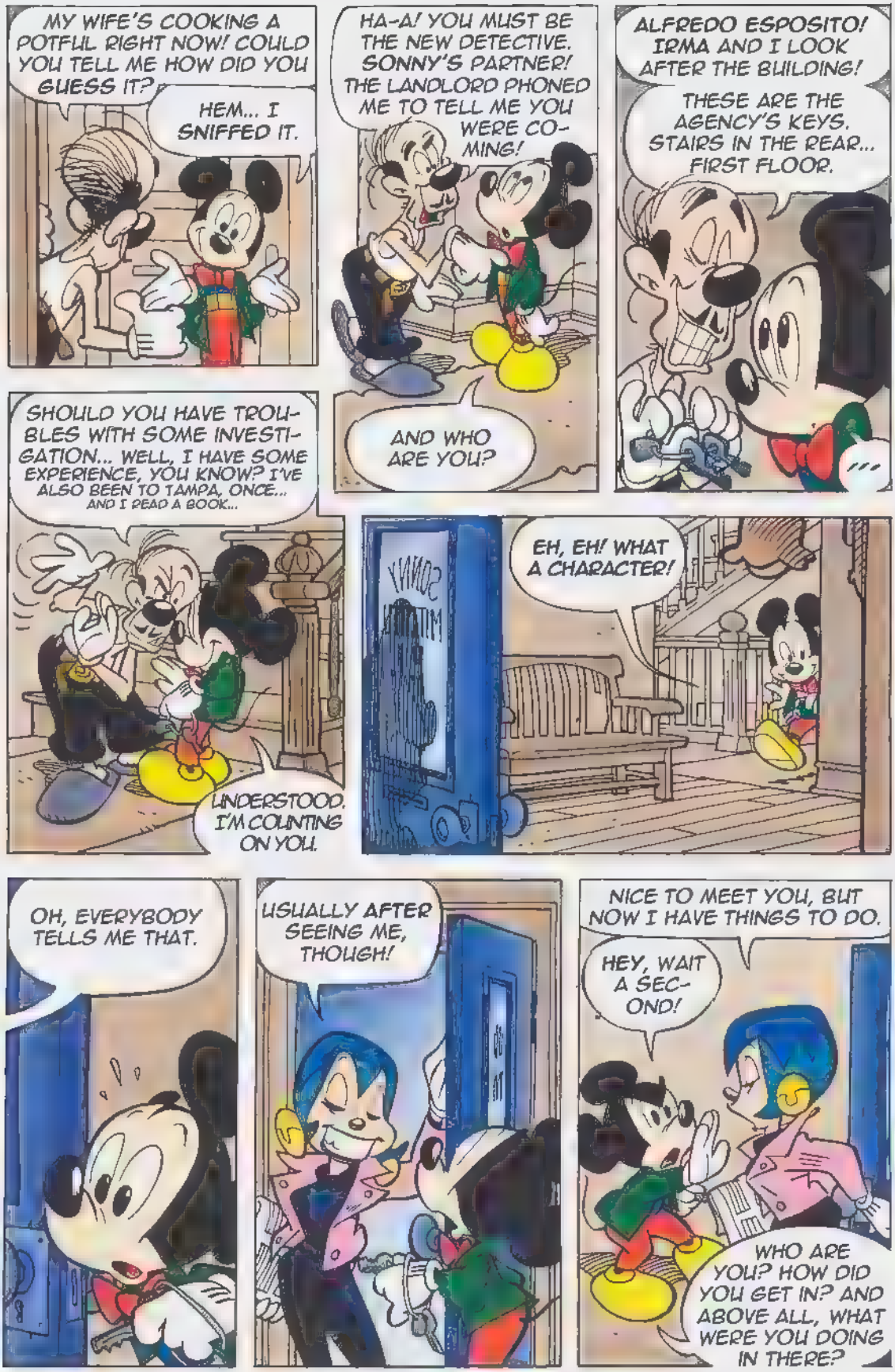
The goon behind me is too surprised to keep a fast hold on me. I take advantage of this to dodge a blow that's as powerful as it's inaccurate.

MMH!
For an instant.
UMPH!
THUMP
For a instant they don't care about me.
There's nothing worse than a pair of shoes that hurts! Especially when they're not yours.
COME ON, HIT ME.
THIS WAY!
AAAH!
BONN
OOOF!
??

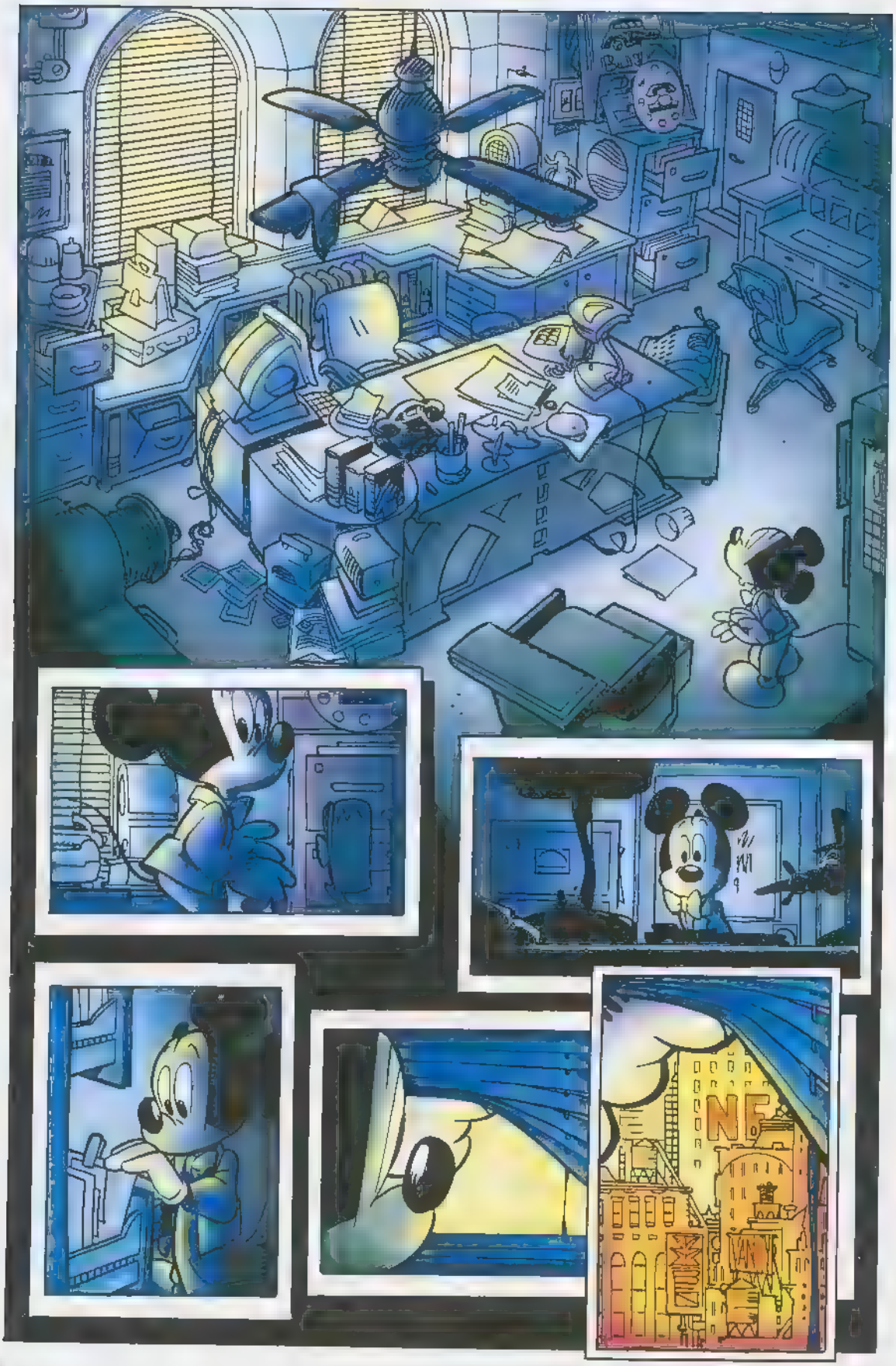
NICE CANNON, UH? BUT MAYBE...
...IT'S HARD TO APPRECIATE IT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW.
STONK
EEEH?
OKAY, THIS MATCH IS OFFICIALLY OVER!
REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED RANDALL WHEN HE PISSED ME OFF? HE REMEMBERS VERY WELL.
GLOM!
THANKS... BUT I COULD DEAL WITH THEM ON MY OWN.
YOU...
I think I scored some million points, in a few minutes.
An almost perfect night...
LITTLE CAESAR, TURN THE VOLUME HIGHER!
....
STRIKE!
Right on schedule, the following morning I visit the 28th precinct.

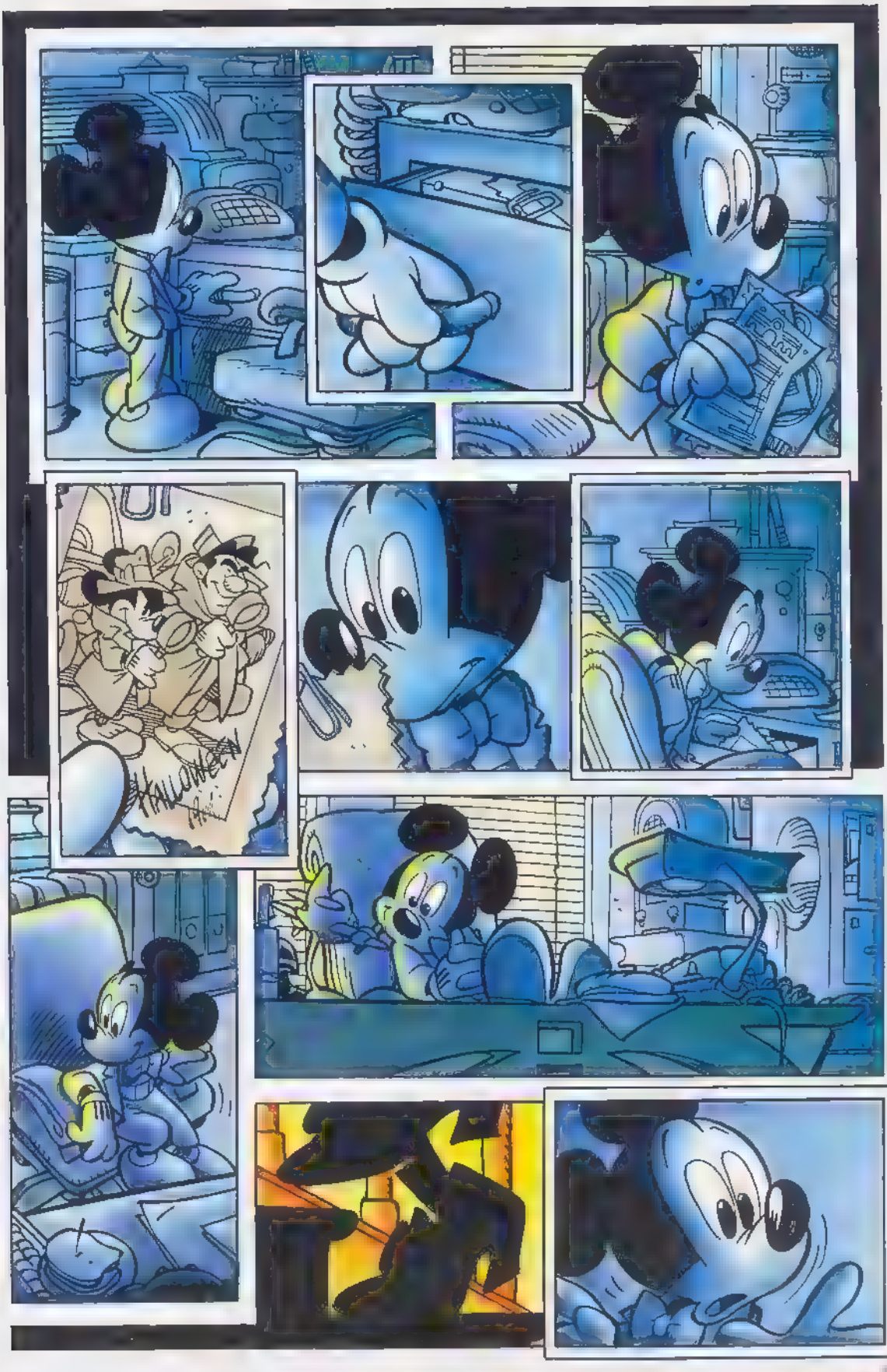

And I find out it's different from Mouseton police station
MAY I HELP YOU?
THANK YOU OFFICER, BUT I'D PREFER TO SPEAK WITH THE POLICE CHIEF.
REALLY? AND WHY NOT WITH THE MAYOR? HE COULD FEEL PUSHED TO THE SIDE... HE IS SO SENSITIVE.
YOU THINK? IT DOESN'T LOOK NECESSARY, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND I'D BE SORRY IF SOMEONE GOT UPSET...
A couple of hours later...
?
MISTER MOUSE, I'M INSPECTOR LIAM LOGAN. WOULD YOU FOLLOW ME?
IT WAS SURPRISING TO DISCOVER SONNY MITCHELL HAD A PARTNER.
FOR ME TOO, ACTUALLY.
HERE YOU ARE, THE AGENCY... YOUR AGENCY'S PAPERS. FOR WHAT CONCERNS ME, THE CASE IS CLOSED.
MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
WHAT WAS OF SONNY?
I KEPT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD INTEREST YOU.

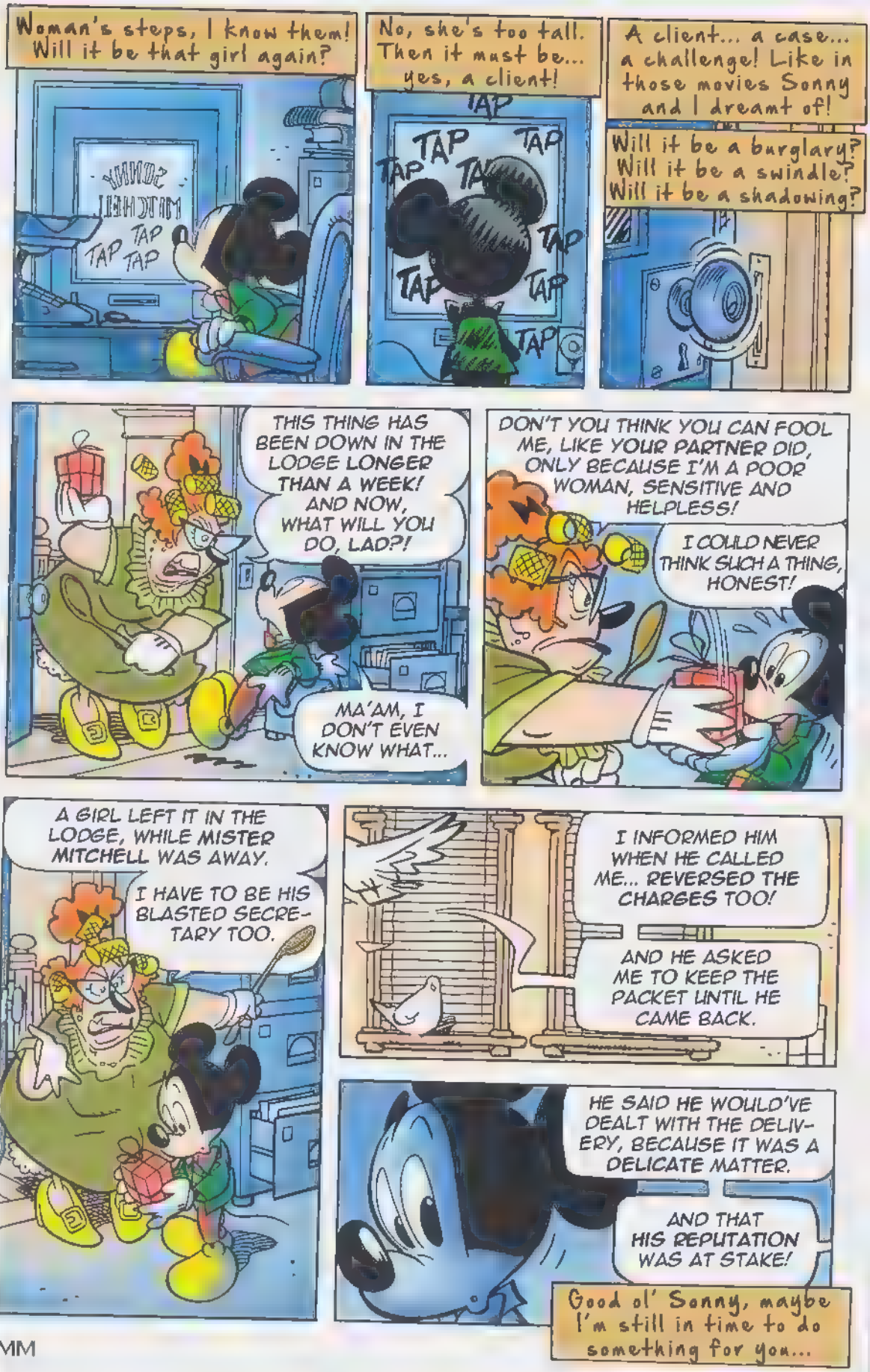

YOUR FRIEND STEPPED ON THE WRONG TOES, THIS TIME.
NDERVILLE News PIONEER
DETECTIVE DISAPPEARS IN MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
THE CAR FALLEN IN THE CANYON NEAR TH
MEXICAN BORDER BELONGS TO PRIVATE E
SONNY MITCHELL
ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE VEHICLE FELL OF
THE ROAD DURING A CAR CHASE-
OH, I FORGOT! THE FIREMEN MANAGED TO SAVE A TAILLIGHT. DO YOU WANT IT?
NO, THANKS.
While I'm going, Logan gives me an advice that sounds like an order.
IF I WERE YOU, I'D WORRY ONLY ABOUT LEAVING AS SOON AS I CAN, WITHOUT POKING MY NOSE IN MATTERS TOO COMPLICATED
AND DANGEROUS FOR YOU.
In the folder I find the telephone number of the agency's landlord.
This way I find out that, before ending the contract, I have a score to settle.
NOW, THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT! AFTER ALL YOU'VE BEEN PAID AS FAR AS FEBRUARY!
TELEPHONE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN FEBRUARY OF WHICH YEAR?
WOK
GROCE
Finally I go to inspect my office.
CABBAGE?
RIGHT, MY BOY!

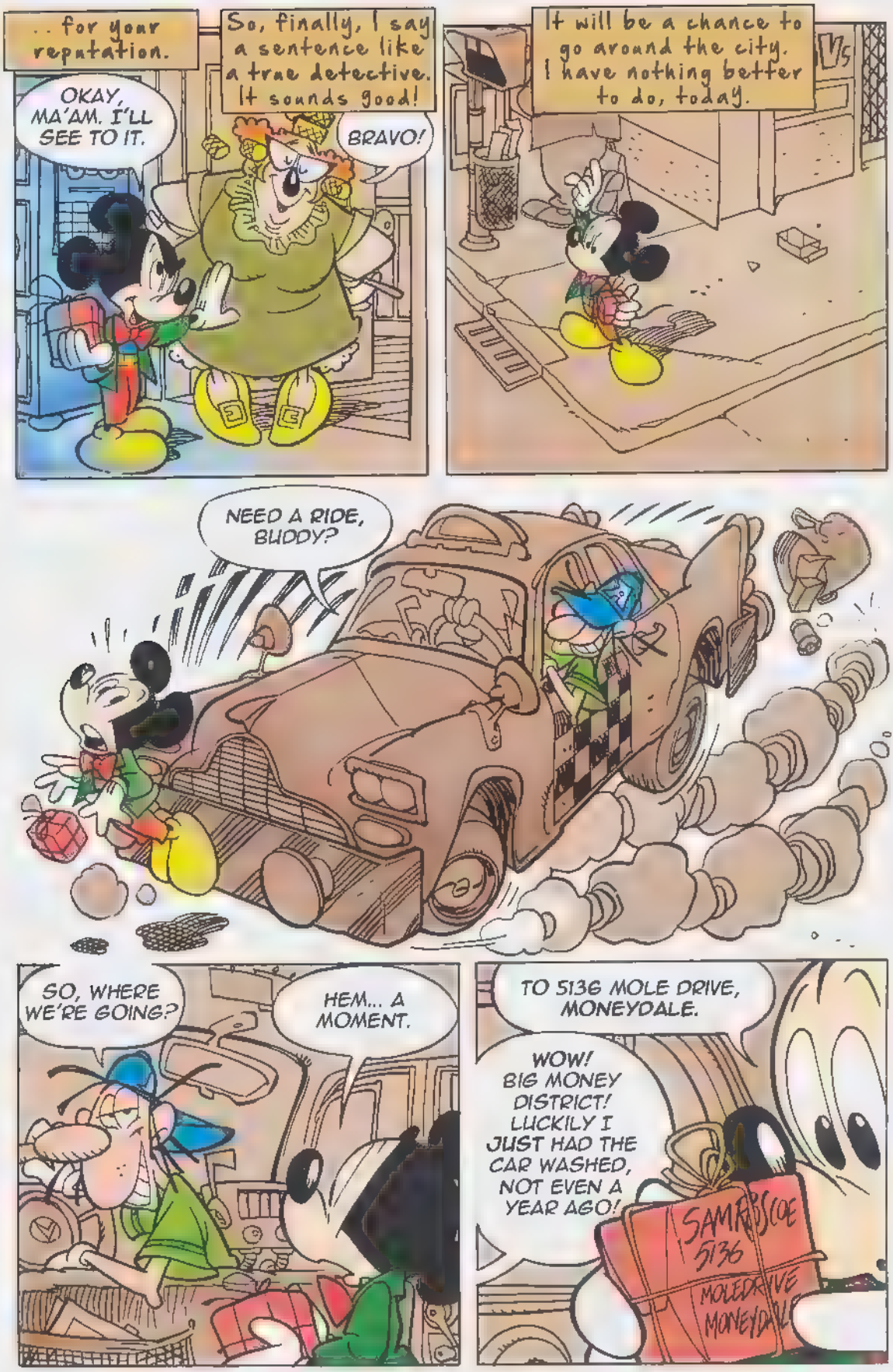

MY WIFE'S COOKING A POTFUL RIGHT NOW! COULD YOU TELL ME HOW DID YOU GUESS IT?
HEM... I SNIFFED IT.
HA-A! YOU MUST BE THE NEW DETECTIVE. SONNY'S PARTNER! THE LANDLORD PHONED ME TO TELL ME YOU WERE COMING!
AND WHO ARE YOU?
ALFREDO ESPOSITO! IRMA AND I LOOK AFTER THE BUILDING!
THESE ARE THE AGENCY'S KEYS. STAIRS IN THE REAR... FIRST FLOOR.
...
SHOULD YOU HAVE TROUBLES WITH SOME INVESTIGATION... WELL, I HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE, YOU KNOW? I'VE ALSO BEEN TO TAMPA, ONCE... AND I READ A BOOK...
UNDERSTOOD. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
EH, EH! WHAT A CHARACTER!
OH, EVERYBODY TELLS ME THAT.
USUALLY AFTER SEEING ME, THOUGH!
NICE TO MEET YOU, BUT NOW I HAVE THINGS TO DO.
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU GET IN? AND ABOVE ALL, WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN THERE?

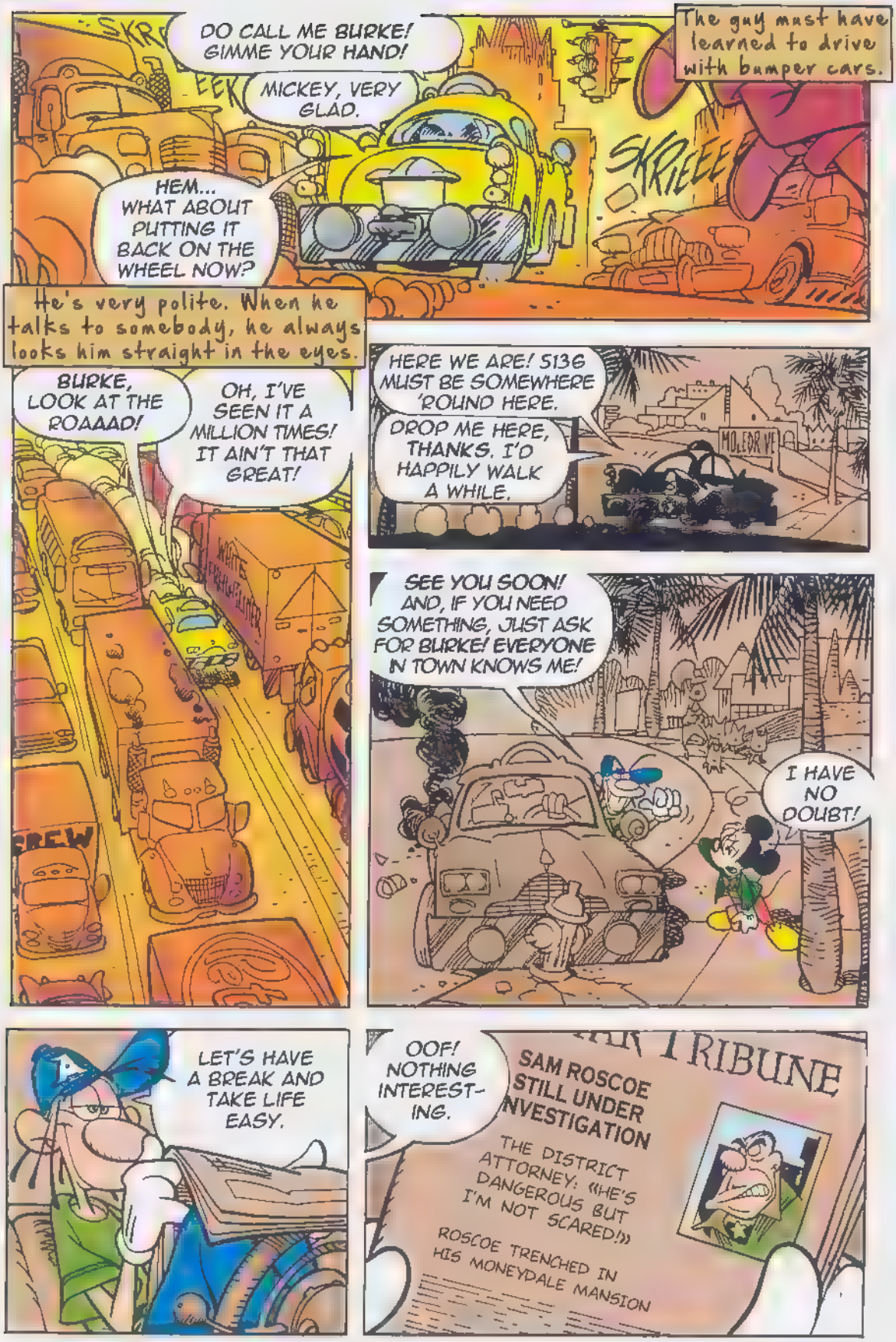
WHY SHOULD I TELL YOU?
BE-CAUSE I HAPPEN TO BE THE OWNER OF THIS AGENCY!
HA, REALLY? AND, TELL ME, HAVE YOU SEEN ANY ALIEN TOO, LATELY?
LOOK, YOU'RE NOT FUNNY.
IF THE EXPERT SAYS SO...
I'M STARTING TO GET MAD!
OH...
THUMP
AND WHAT'S THIS?
HEY, HANDS OFF!
BUT THEN, YOU AND SONNY ARE...
NO, WE'RE NOTHING!
NOTHING!

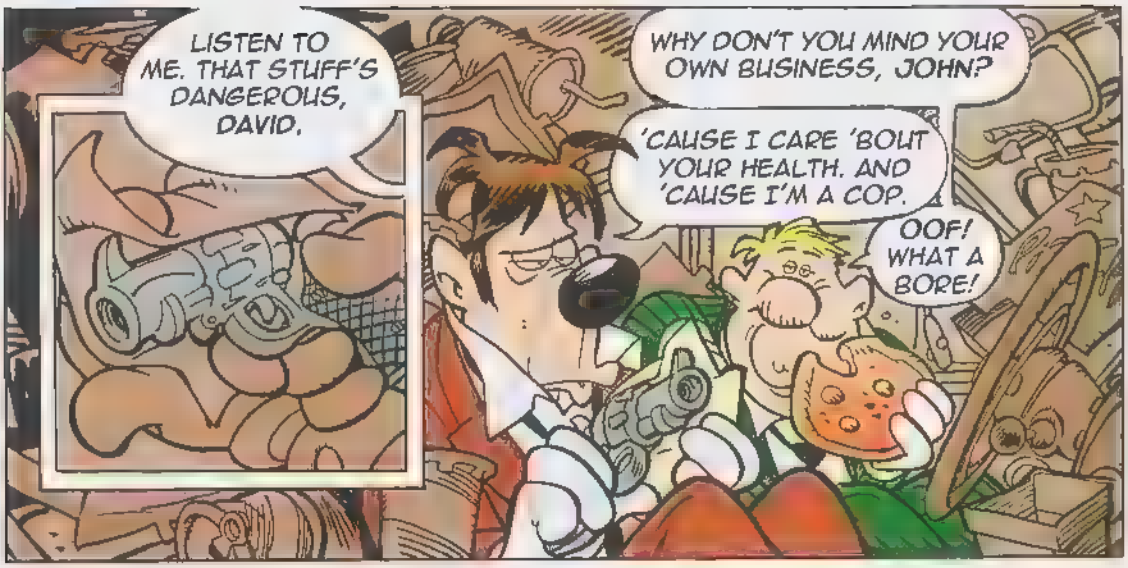


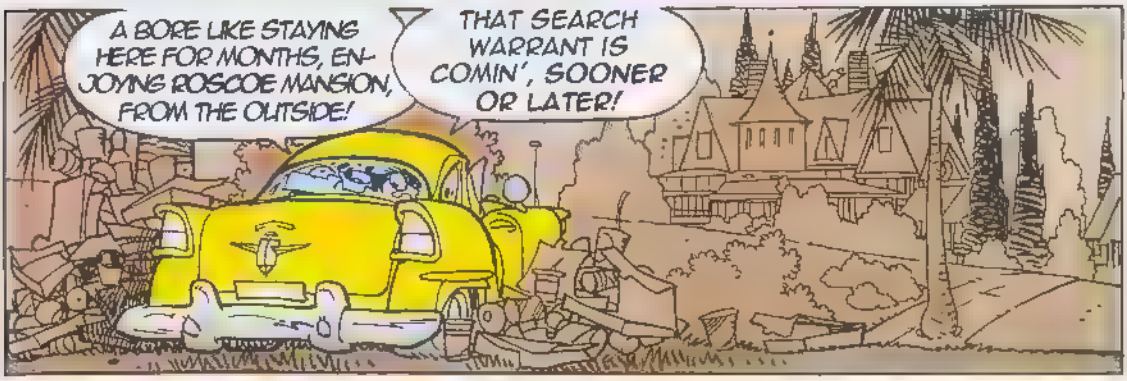

HALLOWEEN

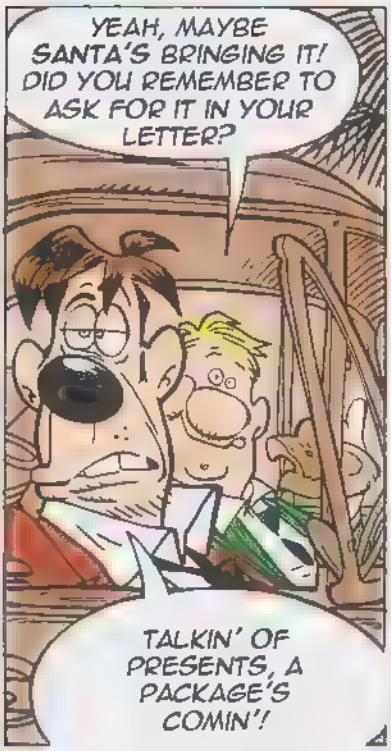

Woman's steps, I know them! Will it be that girl again?
TAP TAP TAP
No, she's too tall. Then it must be... yes, a client!
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
A client... a case... a challenge! Like in those movies Sonny and I dreamt of!
Will it be a burglary? Will it be a swindle? Will it be a shadowing?
THIS THING HAS BEEN DOWN IN THE LODGE LONGER THAN A WEEK! AND NOW, WHAT WILL YOU DO, LAD?!
MA'AM, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT...
DON'T YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME, LIKE YOUR PARTNER DID, ONLY BECAUSE I'M A POOR WOMAN, SENSITIVE AND HELPLESS!
I COULD NEVER THINK SUCH A THING, HONEST!
A GIRL LEFT IT IN THE LODGE, WHILE MISTER MITCHELL WAS AWAY.
I HAVE TO BE HIS BLASTED SECRETARY TOO.
I INFORMED HIM WHEN HE CALLED ME... REVERSED THE CHARGES TOO!
AND HE ASKED ME TO KEEP THE PACKET UNTIL HE CAME BACK.
HE SAID HE WOULD'VE DEALT WITH THE DELIVERY, BECAUSE IT WAS A DELICATE MATTER.
AND THAT HIS REPUTATION WAS AT STAKE!
Good ol' Sonny, maybe I'm still in time to do something for you...


. . for your reputation.
So, finally, I say a sentence like a true detective. It sounds good!
OKAY, MA'AM. I'LL SEE TO IT.
BRAVO!
It will be a chance to go around the city. I have nothing better to do, today.
NEED A RIDE, BUDDY?
SO, WHERE WE'RE GOING?
HEM... A MOMENT.
TO 5136 MOLE DRIVE, MONEYDALE.
WOW! BIG MONEY DISTRICT! LUCKILY I JUST HAD THE CAR WASHED, NOT EVEN A YEAR AGO!
SAM FOSCOE
5136
MOLE DRIVE
MONEYDALE

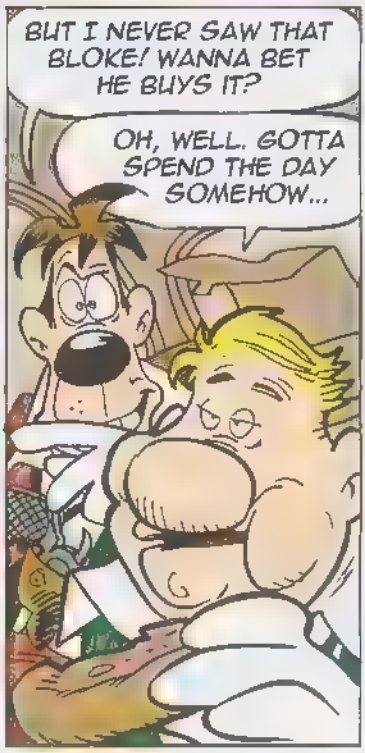

DO CALL ME BURKE! GIMME YOUR HAND!
MICKEY, VERY GLAD.
HEM... WHAT ABOUT PUTTING IT BACK ON THE WHEEL NOW?
The guy must have learned to drive with bumper cars.
SKRIEEE
He's very polite. When he talks to somebody, he always looks him straight in the eyes.
BURKE, LOOK AT THE ROAAAD!
OH, I'VE SEEN IT A MILLION TIMES! IT AIN'T THAT GREAT!
HERE WE ARE! 5136 MUST BE SOMEWHERE 'ROUND HERE.
DROP ME HERE, THANKS. I'D HAPPILY WALK A WHILE.
SEE YOU SOON! AND, IF YOU NEED SOMETHING, JUST ASK FOR BURKE! EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOWS ME!
I HAVE NO DOUBT!
LET'S HAVE A BREAK AND TAKE LIFE EASY.
OOF! NOTHING INTEREST-ING.
TRIBUNE
SAM ROSCOE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY: «HE'S DANGEROUS BUT I'M NOT SCARED!»
ROSCOE TRENCHED IN HIS MONEYDALE MANSION


LISTEN TO ME. THAT STUFF'S DANGEROUS, DAVID.
WHY DON'T YOU MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, JOHN?
'CAUSE I CARE 'BOUT YOUR HEALTH. AND 'CAUSE I'M A COP.
OOF! WHAT A BORE!

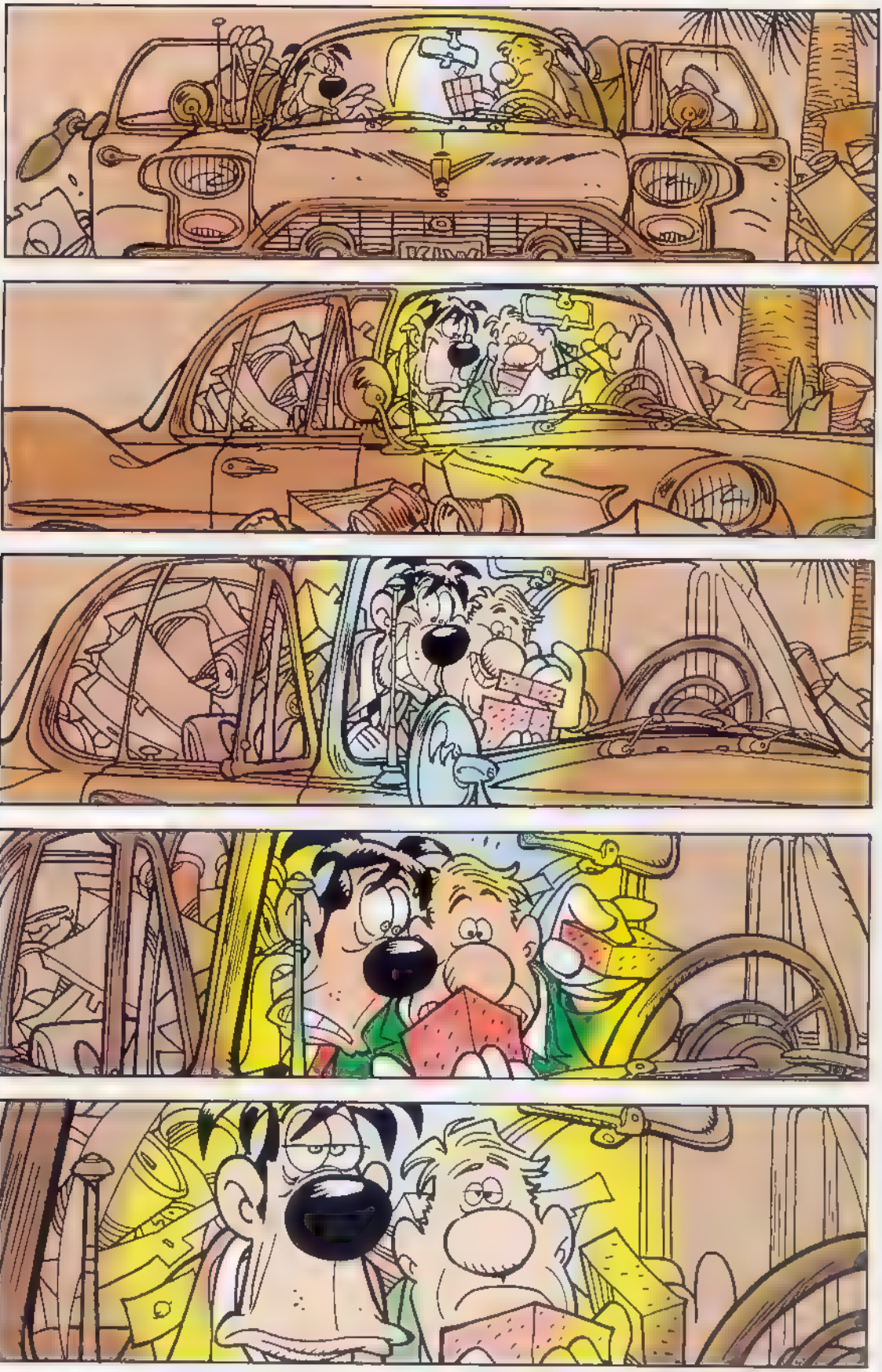

A BORE LIKE STAYING HERE FOR MONTHS, ENJOYING ROSCOE MANSION, FROM THE OUTSIDE!
THAT SEARCH WARRANT IS COMIN', SOONER OR LATER!


YEAH, MAYBE SANTA'S BRINGING IT! DID YOU REMEMBER TO ASK FOR IT IN YOUR LETTER?
TALKIN' OF PRESENTS, A PACKAGE'S COMIN'!

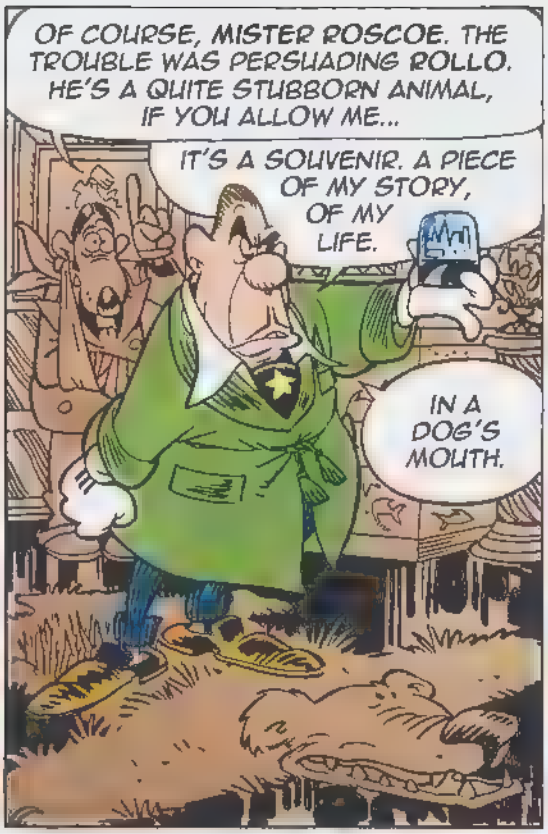
SO, WE PLAY SECURITY GUARDS? THE UNIFORMS ARE STILL IN THE TRUNK.
UMPF! NO ONE'S FALLING FOR THAT ANYMORE!

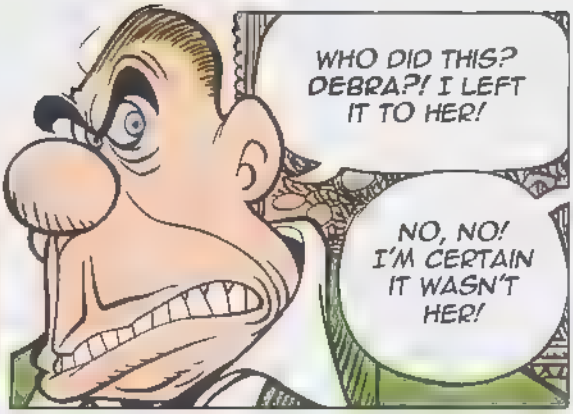

BUT I NEVER SAW THAT BLOKE! WANNA BET HE BUYS IT?
OH, WELL. GOTTA SPEND THE DAY SOMEHOW...

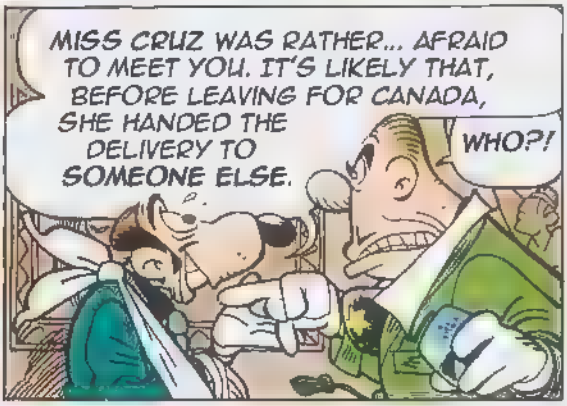
LOOKIN' FOR SOMETHING, BUDDY?
SAM ROSCOE'S HOUSE.
IS THIS IT?
YEP. HE AIN'T HERE RIGHT NOW.
BUT WE ARE. WE'RE... CARE-TAKERS!
OH, VERY WELL. I HAVE A PARCEL TO DELIVER.
AND YOU FOUND THE RIGHT PER-SONS.
WOW, WHAT A PALACE! IT MUST BE HARD WORK TO KEEP WATCH OVER IT!
YOU CAN SAY THAT OUT LOUD! A NASTY JOB, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT!
GOOD WORK! AND THANKS.
GOOD LUCK, BUDDY.
YOU'LL NEED IT.
WELL, THEN... HERE YOU ARE. FROM SONNY MITCHELL.
ROGER! MESSAGE CLEAR!
WE'LL PASS IT ON!
ZAP

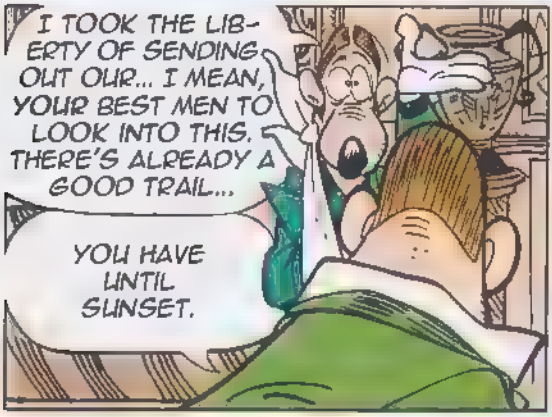


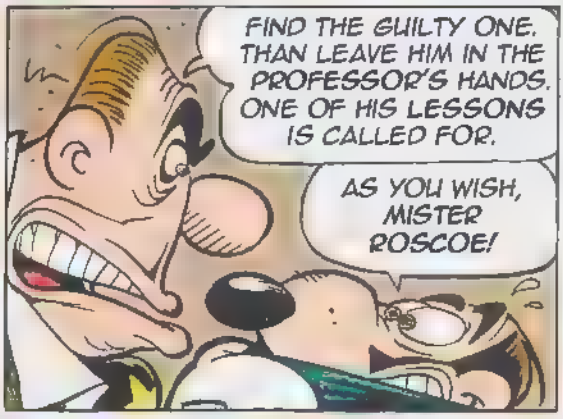
HEY, ROLLO'S COMING!
YOU'RE SPOILIN' HIM, WITH ALL THOSE HAMBURGER LEFTOVERS! THEY DON'T DO HIM NO GOOD. HE LOOKS FLABBY.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GO AWAY EMPTY-HANDED...
I'M SORRY, OLD FELLOW. YOU HEARD OUR AMATEUR NUTRI-TIONIST.
WOOF?
PIZZA
HERE. IT'S A GIFT FOR YOUR MASTER!
WOOF!
IT TAKES SO LITTLE TO AMUSE YOU, DAVID.
YOU CAN'T ENJOY LIFE, JOHN.
ENDER!
THIS IS MY PROPERTY.

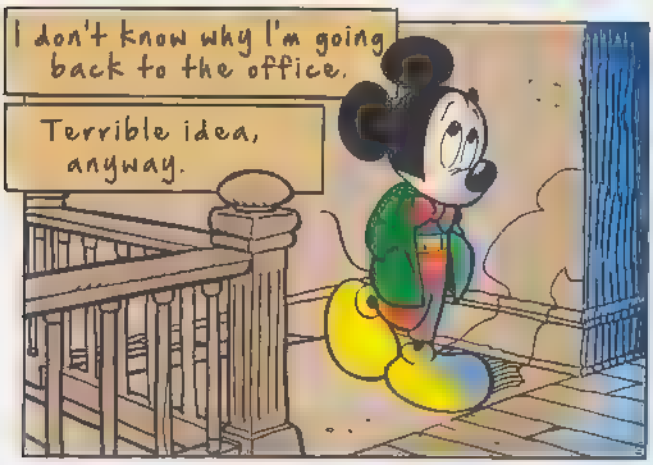

OF COURSE, MISTER ROSCOE. THE TROUBLE WAS PERSUADING ROLLO. HE'S A QUITE STUBBORN ANIMAL, IF YOU ALLOW ME...
IT'S A SOUVENIR. A PIECE OF MY STORY, OF MY LIFE.
IN A DOG'S MOUTH.

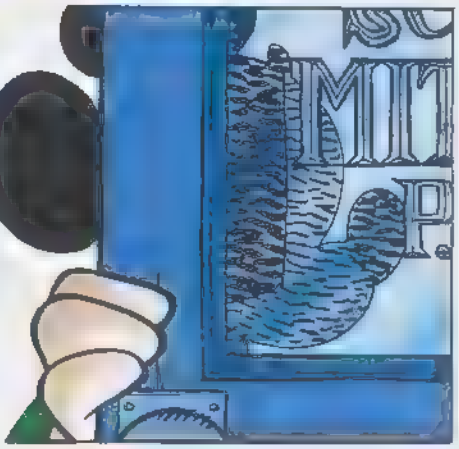

WHO DID THIS? DEBRA?! I LEFT IT TO HER!
NO, NO! I'M CERTAIN IT WASN'T HER!


MISS CRUZ WAS RATHER... AFRAID TO MEET YOU. IT'S LIKELY THAT, BEFORE LEAVING FOR CANADA, SHE HANDED THE DELIVERY TO SOMEONE ELSE.
WHO?!

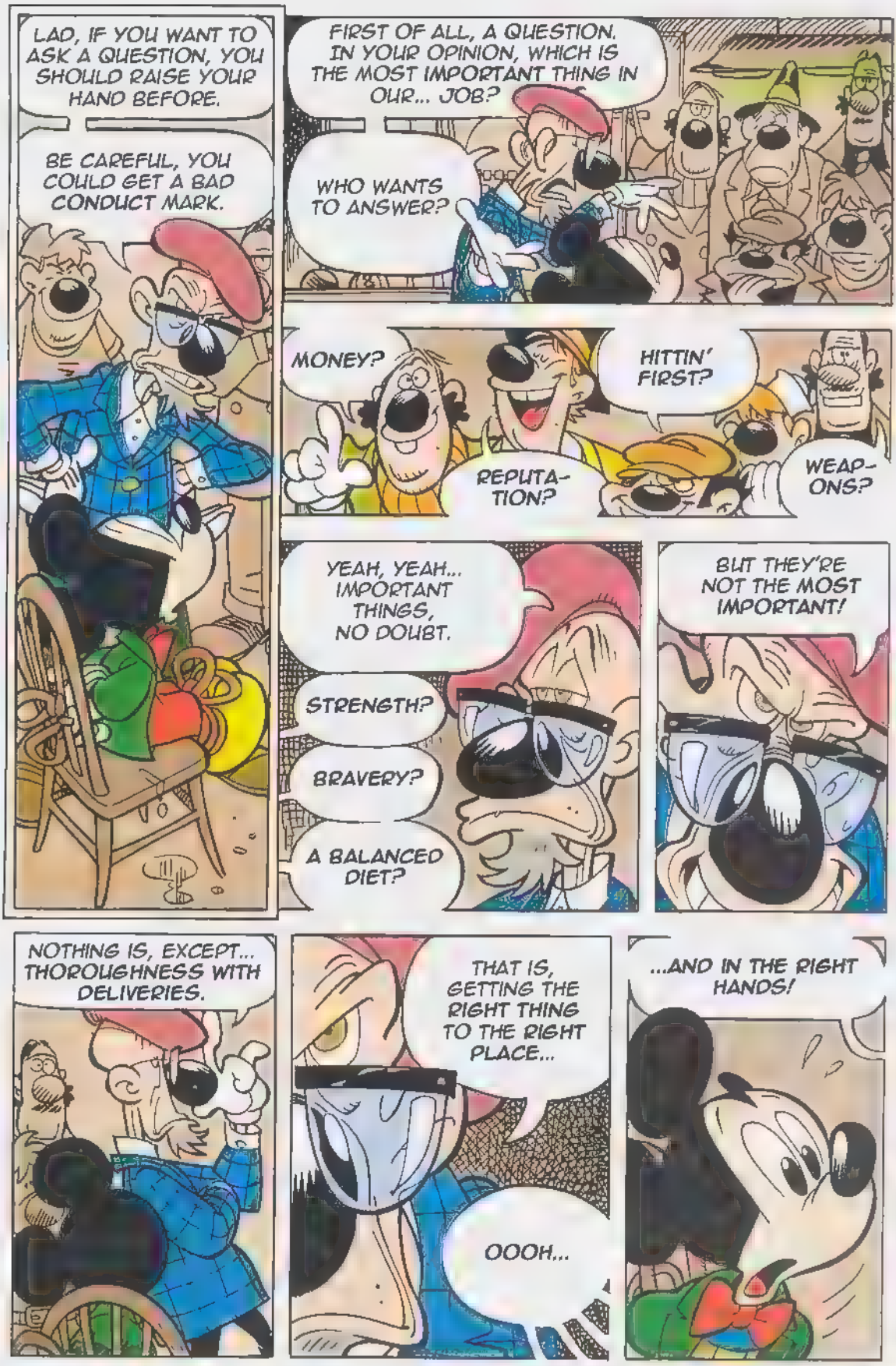

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SENDING OUT OUR... I MEAN, YOUR BEST MEN TO LOOK INTO THIS. THERE'S ALREADY A GOOD TRAIL...
YOU HAVE UNTIL SUNSET.


FIND THE GUILTY ONE. THAN LEAVE HIM IN THE PROFESSOR'S HANDS. ONE OF HIS LESSONS IS CALLED FOR.
AS YOU WISH, MISTER ROSCOE!

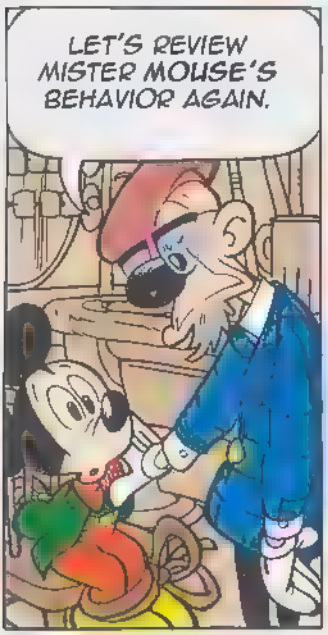

I don't know why I'm going back to the office.
Terrible idea, anyway.

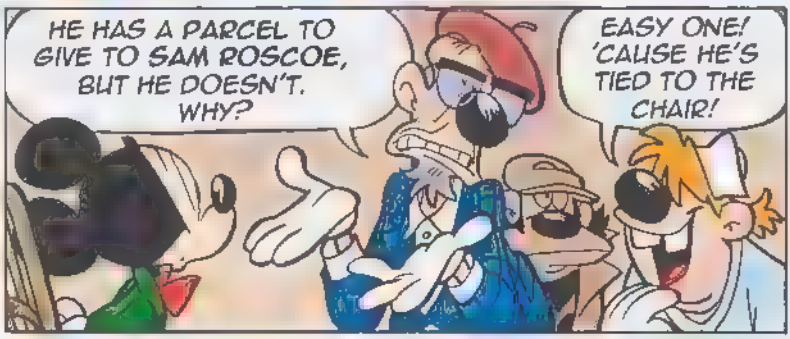


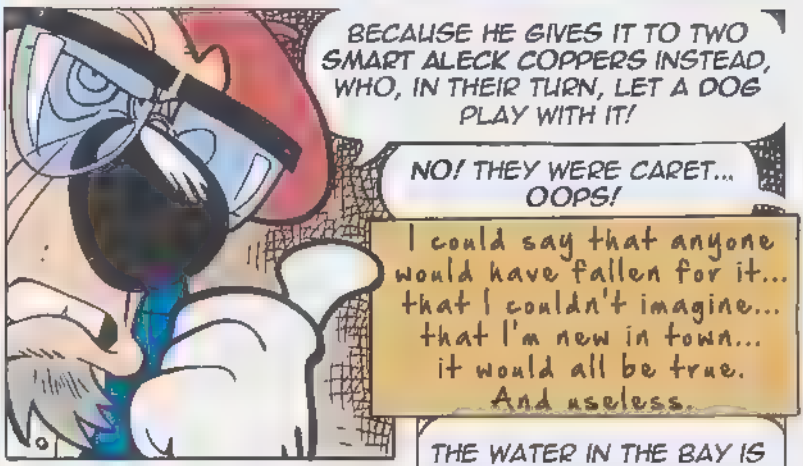
Light
Dark.
GENTLEMEN, I'VE GATHERED YOU HERE FOR A LESSON, ON A SUBJECT WHOSE IMPORTANCE IS WITHOUT DOUBT VITAL.
WOULD SOMEONE BE SO KIND AS TO WAKE UP OUR PUPIL FOR THE EXAM?
AS YOU WISH, PROFESSOR!
SPLASH
PAY ATTENTION, PLEASE. NO SLEEPING IN CLASSROOM.
WHO ARE YOU? WHERE AM I?
A billiard room, somewhere in Middle Heart.


LAD, IF YOU WANT TO ASK A QUESTION, YOU SHOULD RAISE YOUR HAND BEFORE.
BE CAREFUL, YOU COULD GET A BAD CONDUCT MARK.
FIRST OF ALL, A QUESTION. IN YOUR OPINION, WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN OUR... JOB?
WHO WANTS TO ANSWER?
MONEY?
HITTIN' FIRST?
REPUTA-TION?
WEAP-ONS?
YEAH, YEAH... IMPORTANT THINGS, NO DOUBT.
STRENGTH?
BRAVERY?
A BALANCED DIET?
BUT THEY'RE NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT!
NOTHING IS, EXCEPT... THOROUGHNESS WITH DELIVERIES.
THAT IS, GETTING THE RIGHT THING TO THE RIGHT PLACE...
OOOH...
...AND IN THE RIGHT HANDS!

THAT'S TRUE!
THE PROFESSOR IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
I DID KNEW IT!
THOROUGHNESS WITH DELIVERIES! TOO RIGHT!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY?


LET'S REVIEW MISTER MOUSE'S BEHAVIOR AGAIN.


HE HAS A PARCEL TO GIVE TO SAM ROSCOE, BUT HE DOESN'T. WHY?
EASY ONE! 'CAUSE HE'S TIED TO THE CHAIR!


BECAUSE HE GIVES IT TO TWO SMART ALECK COPPERS INSTEAD, WHO, IN THEIR TURN, LET A DOG PLAY WITH IT!
NO! THEY WERE CARET... OOPS!
I could say that anyone would have fallen for it... that I couldn't imagine... that I'm new in town... it would all be true. And useless.

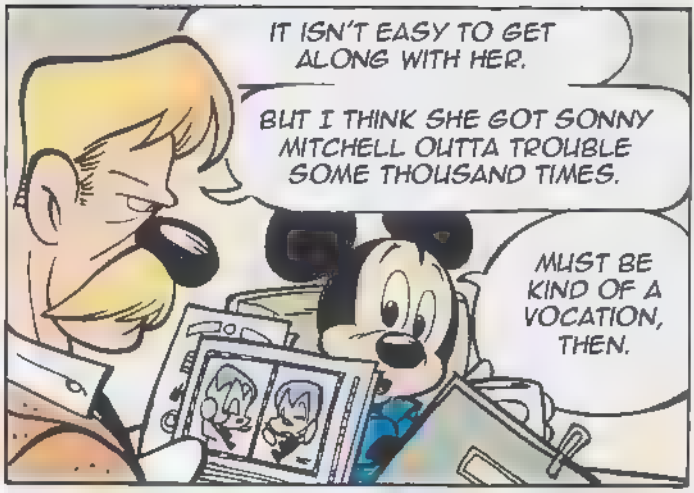
YOU! WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH HIM, NOW?
...
SAY IT IN YOUR OWN WORDS.

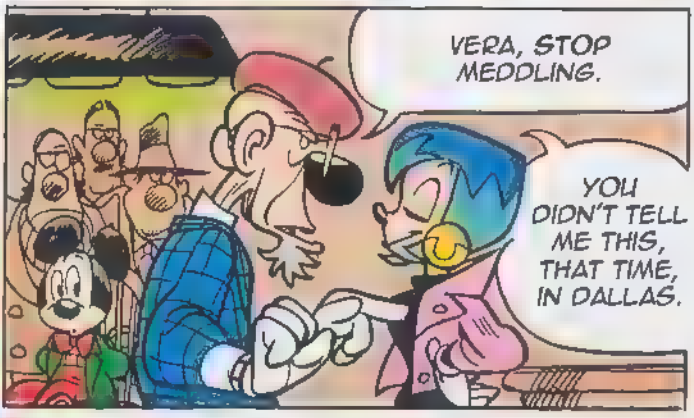
THROW 'IM IN THE BAY, WITH A PAIR OF CONCRETE BOOTS!
GOOD.

THE WATER IN THE BAY IS COLD, THIS SEASON.
DEADLY COLD.

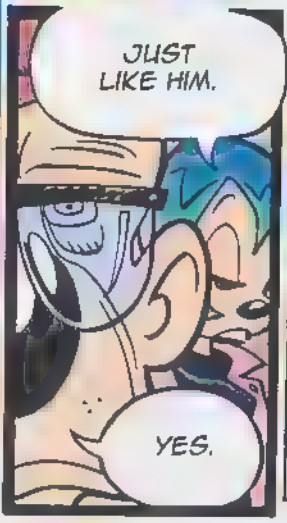
IF WE ALLOWED THE FIRST COMER TO MESS UP A DELIVERY, THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THE STRUCTURE WE LABORIOUSLY BUILT IN ALL THESE YEARS WOULD TREMBLE.
I'd need a great idea, but I could also do with...
...a little protruding screw.
RIGHT!
HE SPEAKS LIKE A TEXT-BOOK!
Maybe I might ..
HEY, LOOK!
HE'S TRYING TO SAW THE ROPE WITH A SCREW!
LIKE IN THE COMICS!
THAT'S WHAT'S RUINING THE YOUTH!
I know it sounds crazy, but I'm confident this would have worked in Mouseton
AND NOW, ON TO THE PRACTICAL PART. HAS ANYONE BROUGHT THE CONCRETE?
ME! ME!
EASY, PROF!
WHO SAID THAT?
YOUR FAVORITE ALUMNA! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
EXCELLENT LESSON, BUT SHOULDN'T THE STUDENT BE ALLOWED TO RETAKE THE TEST?
VERA!
Vera?

VERA ACKERMAN. YOUR PARTNER HAD... DIFFICULT TASTES.

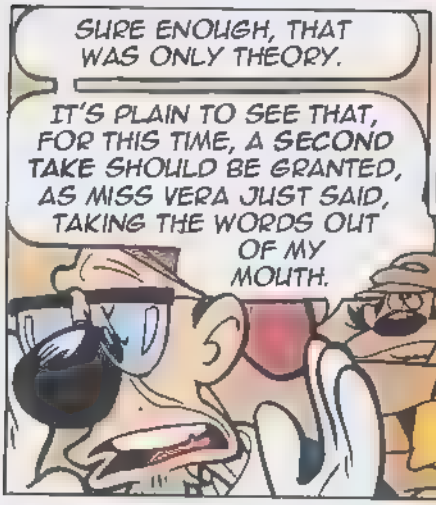

IT ISN'T EASY TO GET ALONG WITH HER.
BUT I THINK SHE GOT SONNY MITCHELL OUTTA TROUBLE SOME THOUSAND TIMES.
MUST BE KIND OF A VOCATION, THEN.

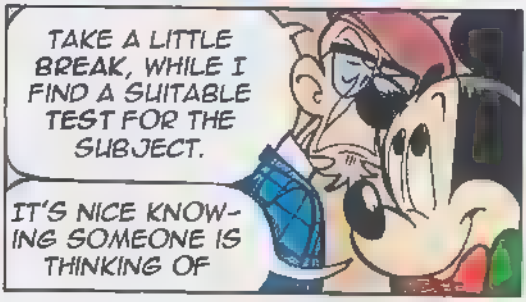

VERA, STOP MEDDLING.
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THIS, THAT TIME, IN DALLAS.

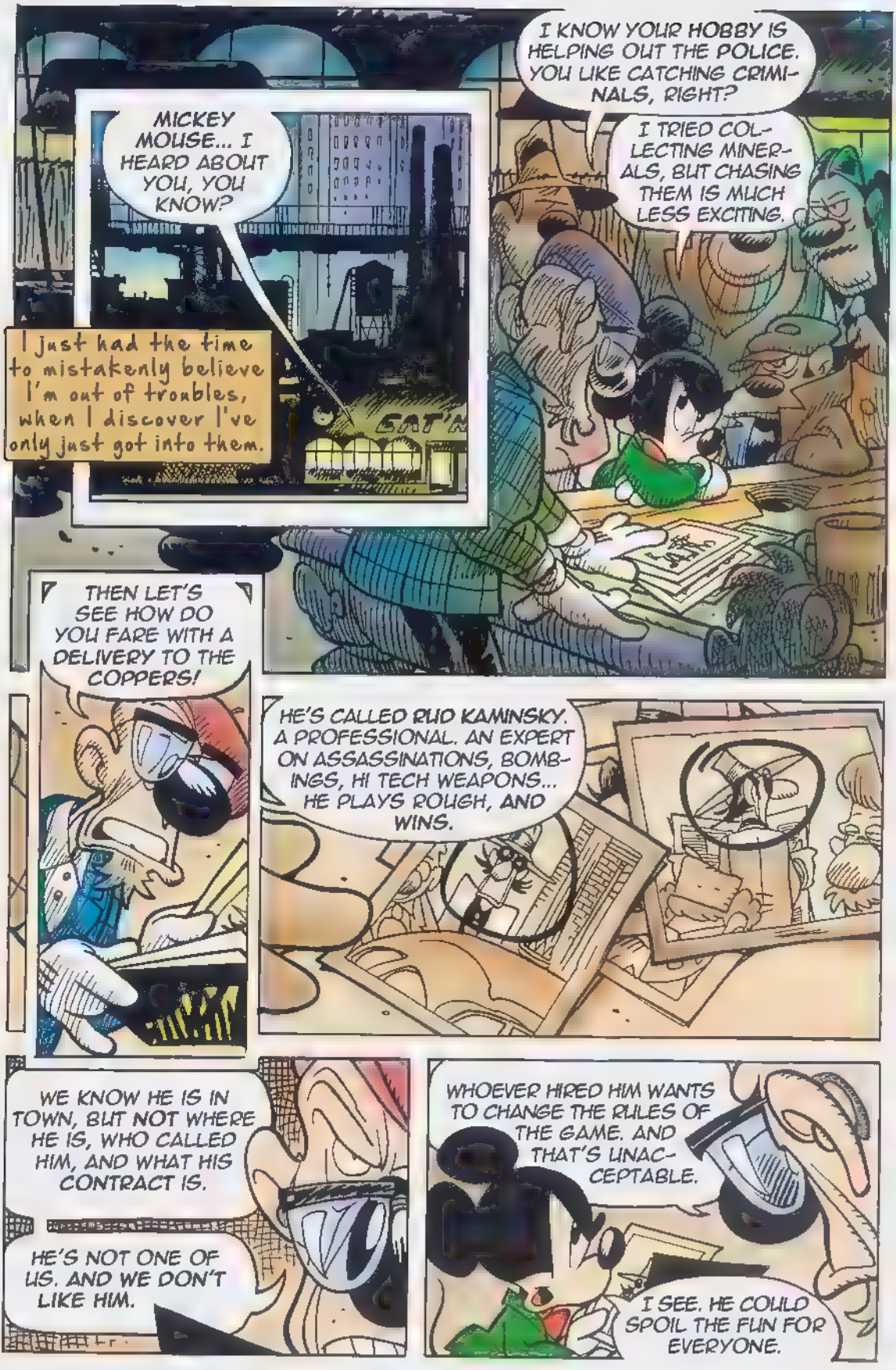
DO YOU REMEMBER WHO PERSUADED THE BLASCO BROS TO GIVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE? BY THE WAY, WHERE DID YOU LEAVE THOSE CRATES?
IT WAS MANY YEARS AGO. I WAS SO YOUNG.

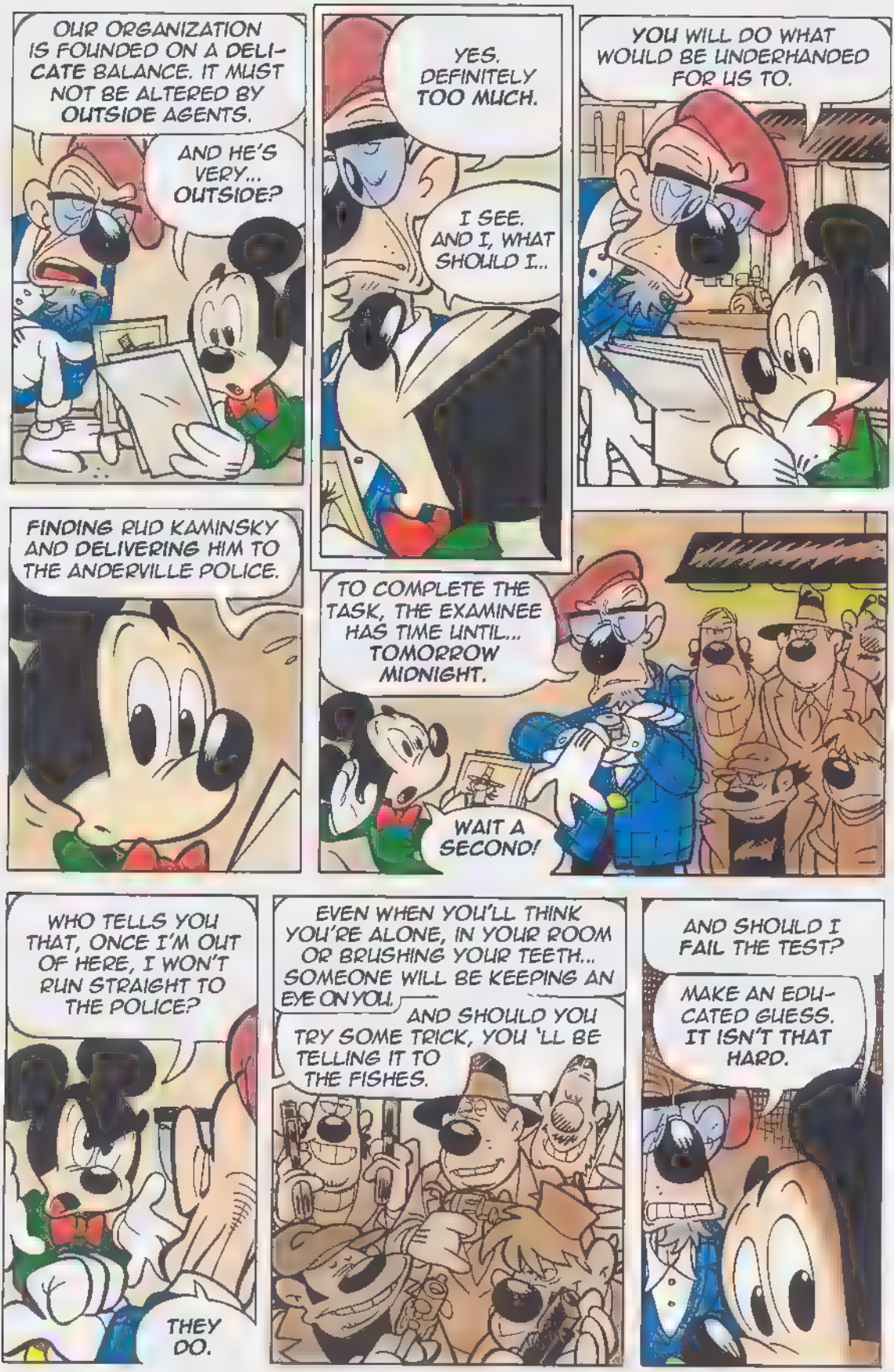

JUST LIKE HIM.
YES.

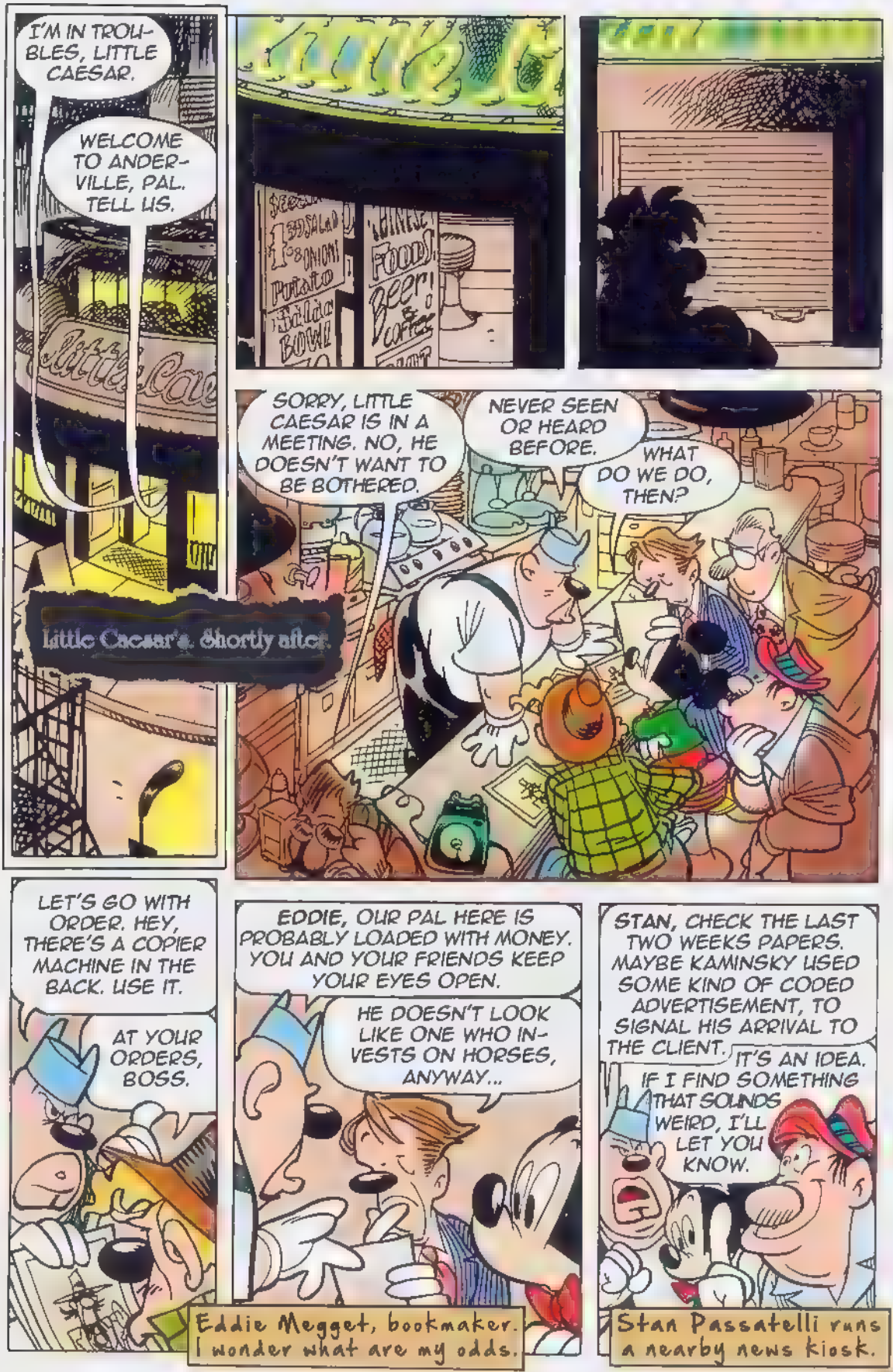
WHERE WERE WE, GENTLEMEN?
CONCRETE, PROFES-SOR!

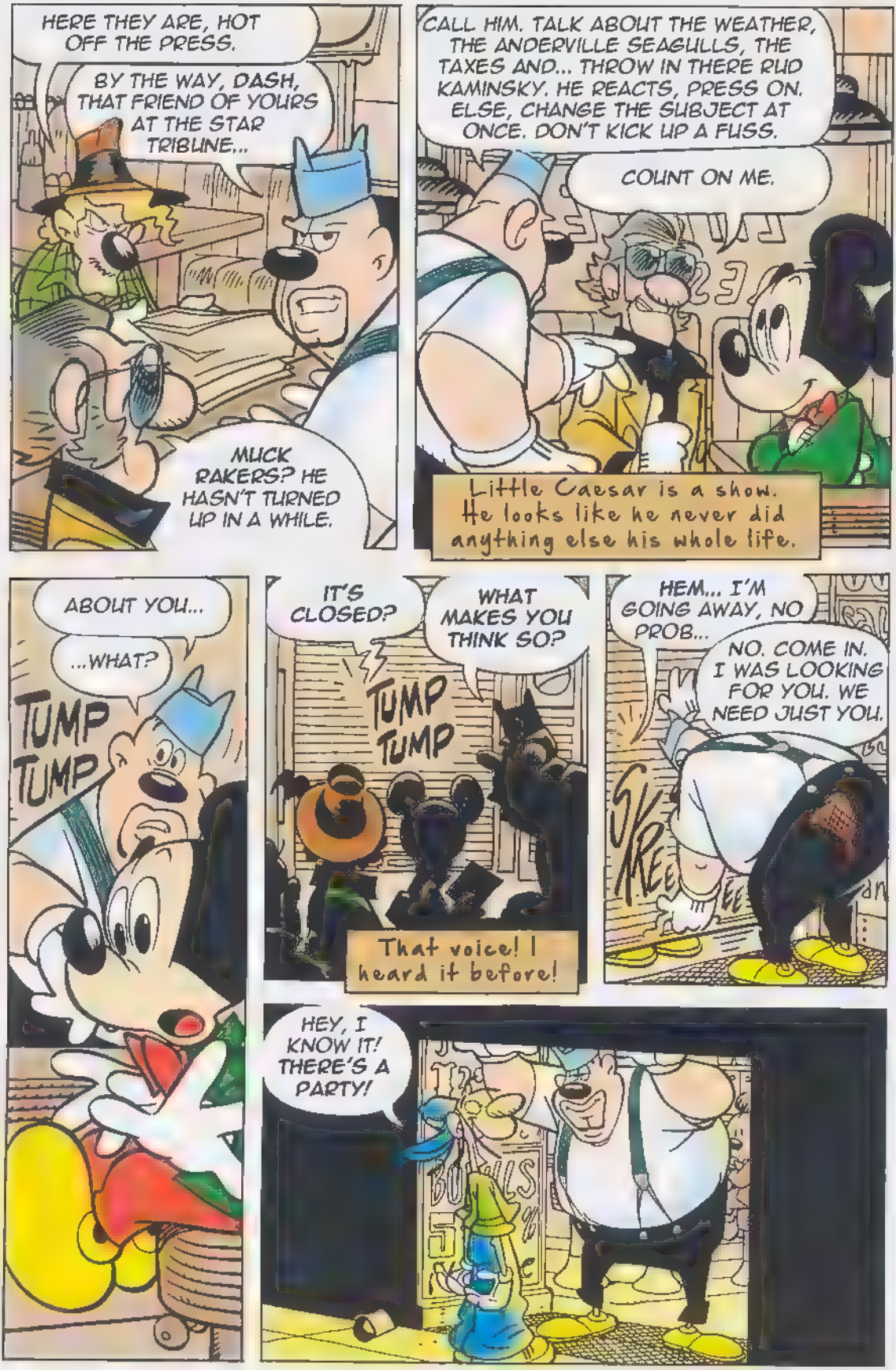

SURE ENOUGH, THAT WAS ONLY THEORY.
IT'S PLAIN TO SEE THAT, FOR THIS TIME, A SECOND TAKE SHOULD BE GRANTED, AS MISS VERA JUST SAID, TAKING THE WORDS OUT OF MY MOUTH.
...

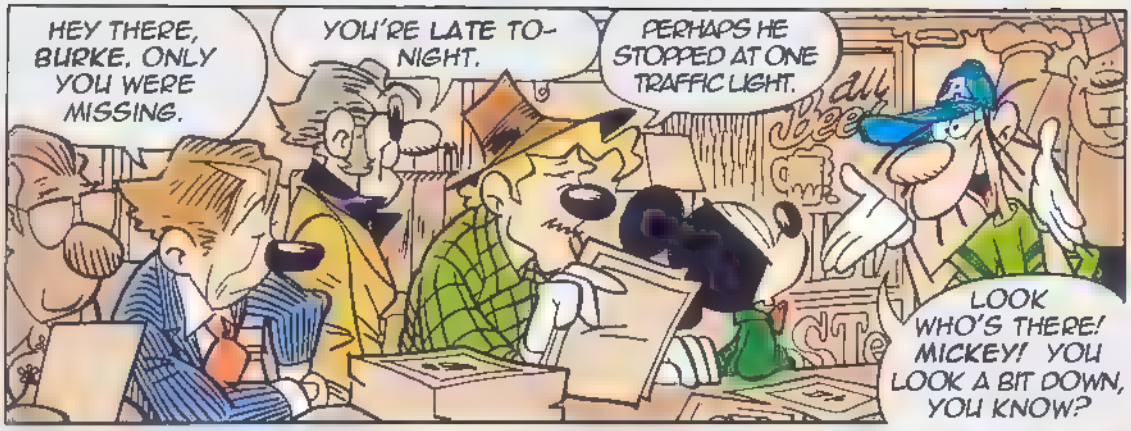

TAKE A LITTLE BREAK, WHILE I FIND A SUITABLE TEST FOR THE SUBJECT.
IT'S NICE KNOW-ING SOMEONE IS THINKING OF

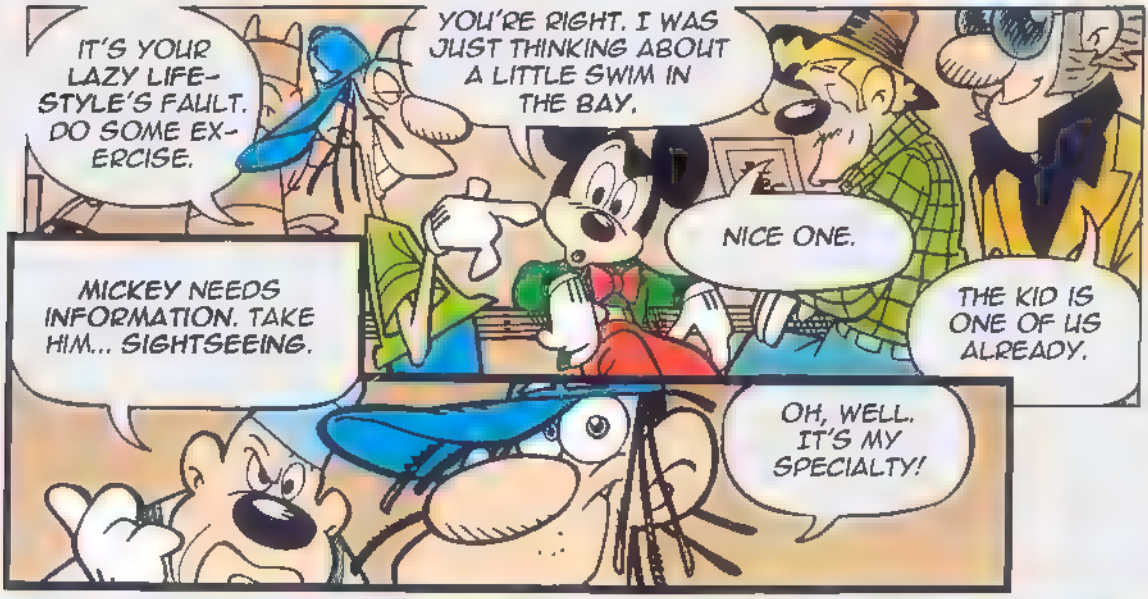

I KNOW YOUR HOBBY IS HELPING OUT THE POLICE. YOU LIKE CATCHING CRIMINALS, RIGHT?
I TRIED COLLECTING MINERALS, BUT CHASING THEM IS MUCH LESS EXCITING.
MICKEY MOUSE... I HEARD ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW?
I just had the time to mistakenly believe I'm out of troubles, when I discover I've only just got into them.
EAT'N
THEN LET'S SEE HOW DO YOU FARE WITH A DELIVERY TO THE COPPERS!
HE'S CALLED RUD KAMINSKY. A PROFESSIONAL. AN EXPERT ON ASSASSINATIONS, BOMBINGS, HI TECH WEAPONS... HE PLAYS ROUGH, AND WINS.
WE KNOW HE IS IN TOWN, BUT NOT WHERE HE IS, WHO CALLED HIM, AND WHAT HIS CONTRACT IS.
HE'S NOT ONE OF US. AND WE DON'T LIKE HIM.
WHOEVER HIRED HIM WANTS TO CHANGE THE RULES OF THE GAME. AND THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.
I SEE. HE COULD SPOIL THE FUN FOR EVERYONE.

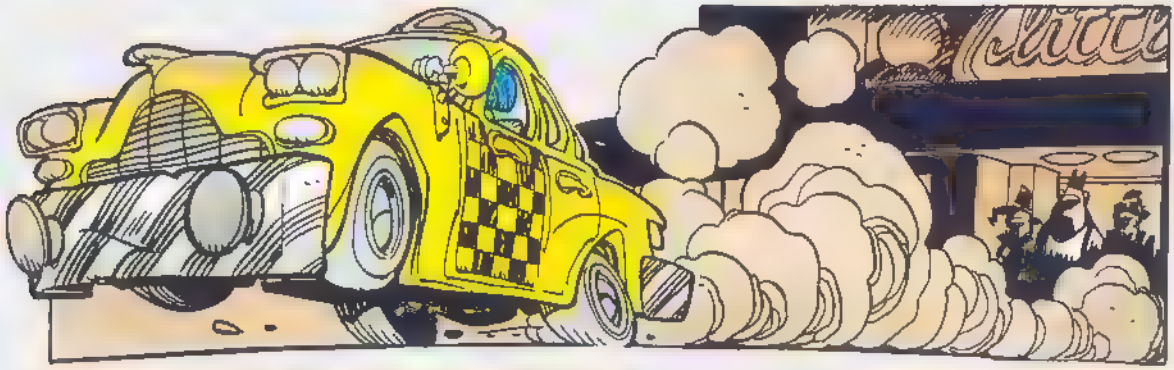

OUR ORGANIZATION IS FOUNDED ON A DELICATE BALANCE. IT MUST NOT BE ALTERED BY OUTSIDE AGENTS.
AND HE'S VERY... OUTSIDE?
YES. DEFINITELY TOO MUCH.
I SEE. AND I, WHAT SHOULD I...
YOU WILL DO WHAT WOULD BE UNDERHANDED FOR US TO.
FINDING RUD KAMINSKY AND DELIVERING HIM TO THE ANDERVILLE POLICE.
TO COMPLETE THE TASK, THE EXAMINEE HAS TIME UNTIL... TOMORROW MIDNIGHT.
WAIT A SECOND!
WHO TELLS YOU THAT, ONCE I'M OUT OF HERE, I WON'T RUN STRAIGHT TO THE POLICE?
THEY DO.
EVEN WHEN YOU'LL THINK YOU'RE ALONE, IN YOUR ROOM OR BRUSHING YOUR TEETH... SOMEONE WILL BE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU.
AND SHOULD YOU TRY SOME TRICK, YOU 'LL BE TELLING IT TO THE FISHES.
AND SHOULD I FAIL THE TEST?
MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS. IT ISN'T THAT HARD.


I'M IN TROUBLES, LITTLE CAESAR.
WELCOME TO ANDERVILLE, PAL. TELL US.
Little Caesar's. Shortly after.
SORRY, LITTLE CAESAR IS IN A MEETING. NO, HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED.
NEVER SEEN OR HEARD BEFORE.
WHAT DO WE DO, THEN?
LET'S GO WITH ORDER. HEY, THERE'S A COPIER MACHINE IN THE BACK. USE IT.
AT YOUR ORDERS, BOSS.
EDDIE, OUR PAL HERE IS PROBABLY LOADED WITH MONEY. YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE WHO INVESTS ON HORSES, ANYWAY...
Eddie Megget, bookmaker. I wonder what are my odds.
STAN, CHECK THE LAST TWO WEEKS PAPERS. MAYBE KAMINSKY USED SOME KIND OF CODED ADVERTISEMENT, TO SIGNAL HIS ARRIVAL TO THE CLIENT.
IT'S AN IDEA. IF I FIND SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS WEIRD, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
Stan Passatelli runs a nearby news kiosk.


HERE THEY ARE, HOT OFF THE PRESS.
BY THE WAY, DASH, THAT FRIEND OF YOURS AT THE STAR TRIBUNE...
MUCK RAKERS? HE HASN'T TURNED UP IN A WHILE.
CALL HIM. TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER, THE ANDERVILLE SEAGULLS, THE TAXES AND... THROW IN THERE RUD KAMINSKY. HE REACTS, PRESS ON. ELSE, CHANGE THE SUBJECT AT ONCE. DON'T KICK UP A FUSS.
COUNT ON ME.
Little Caesar is a show. He looks like he never did anything else his whole life.
ABOUT YOU...
...WHAT?
TUMP TUMP
IT'S CLOSED?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?
TUMP TUMP
That voice! I heard it before!
HEM... I'M GOING AWAY, NO PROB...
NO. COME IN. I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. WE NEED JUST YOU.
SKREE
HEY, I KNOW IT! THERE'S A PARTY!


HEY THERE, BURKE. ONLY YOU WERE MISSING.
YOU'RE LATE TO-NIGHT.
PERHAPS HE STOPPED AT ONE TRAFFIC LIGHT.
LOOK WHO'S THERE! MICKEY! YOU LOOK A BIT DOWN, YOU KNOW?


IT'S YOUR LAZY LIFE-STYLE'S FAULT. DO SOME EX-ERCISE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT A LITTLE SWIM IN THE BAY.
NICE ONE.
THE KID IS ONE OF US ALREADY.
MICKEY NEEDS INFORMATION. TAKE HIM... SIGHTSEEING.
OH, WELL. IT'S MY SPECIALTY!

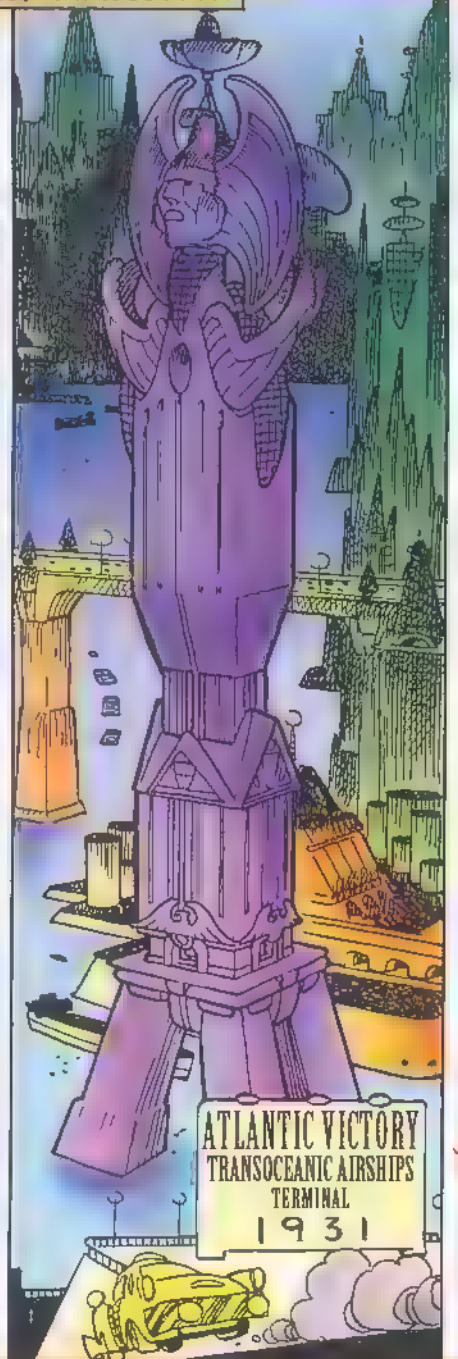


CRASH

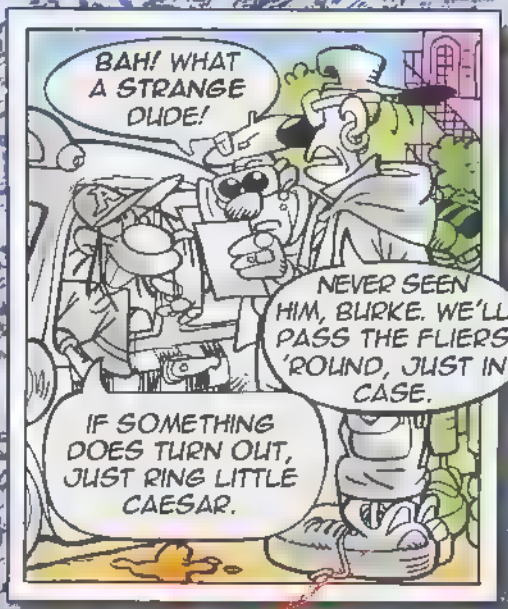
ALL UNDER CONTROL.
WHO'S BUYING ME A COFFEE?

It doesn't take me long to understand what Little Caesar means with sightseeing.

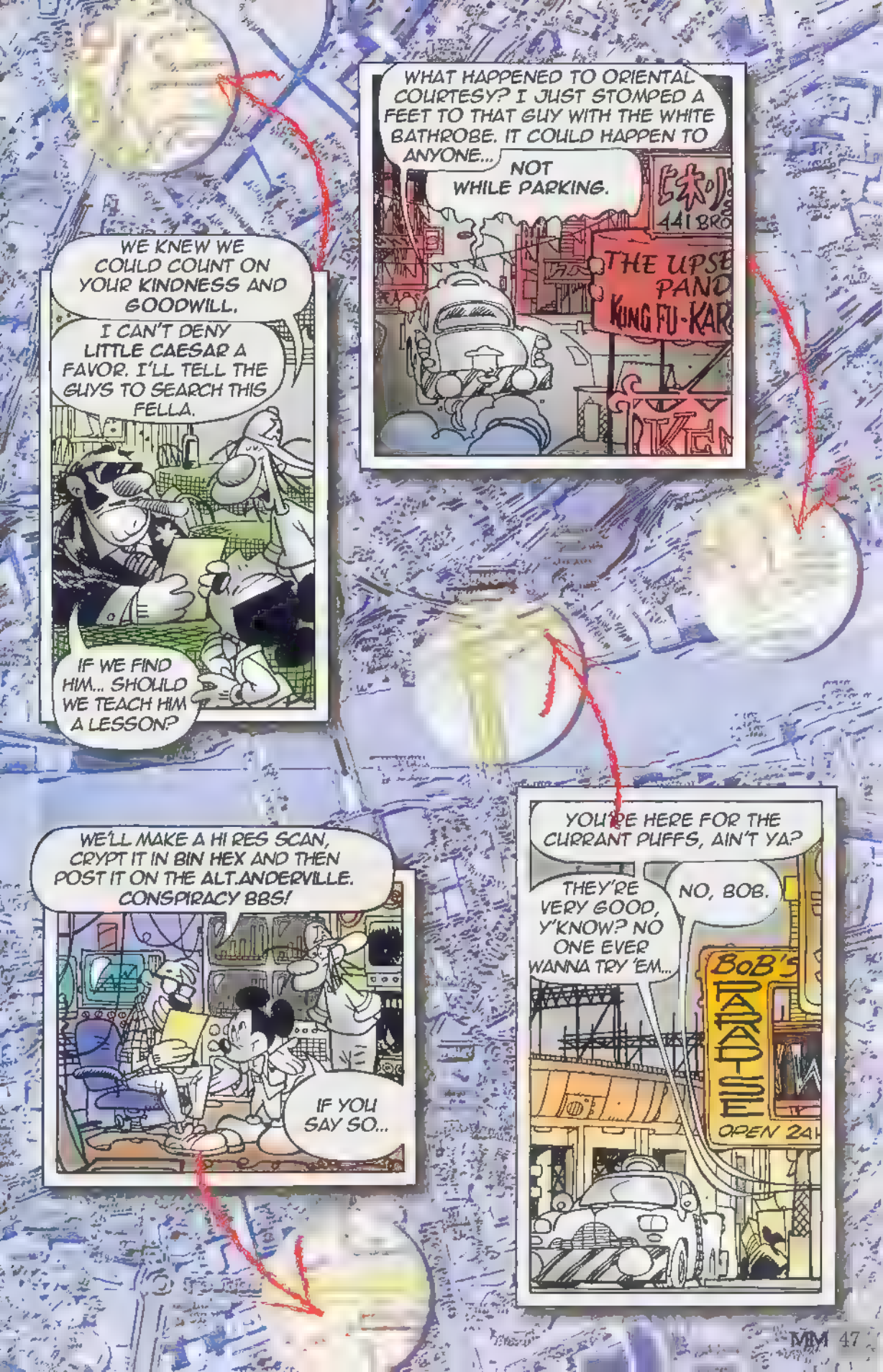
I doubt the stops of this tour are recommended by any guide-book whatsoever.

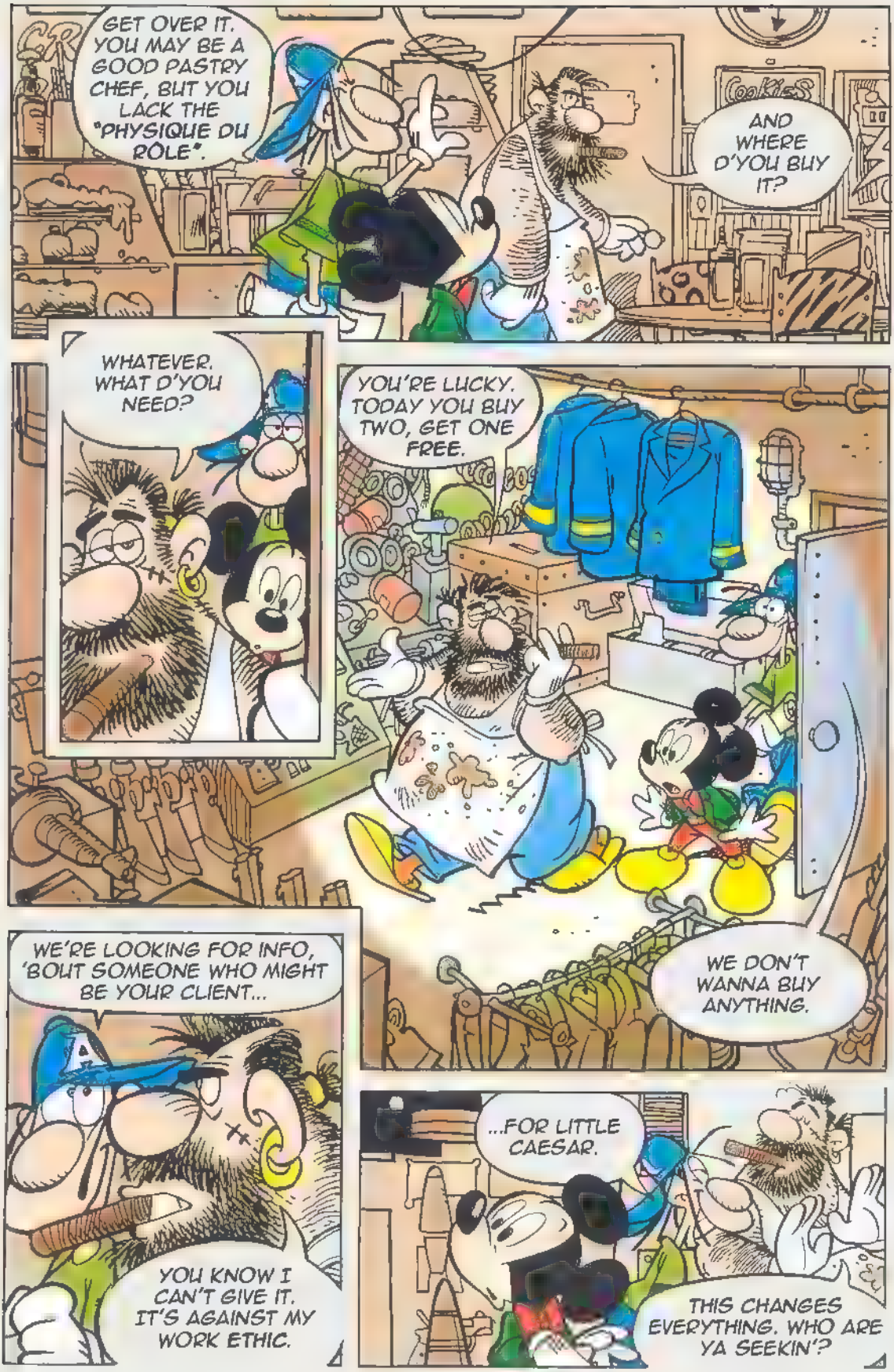


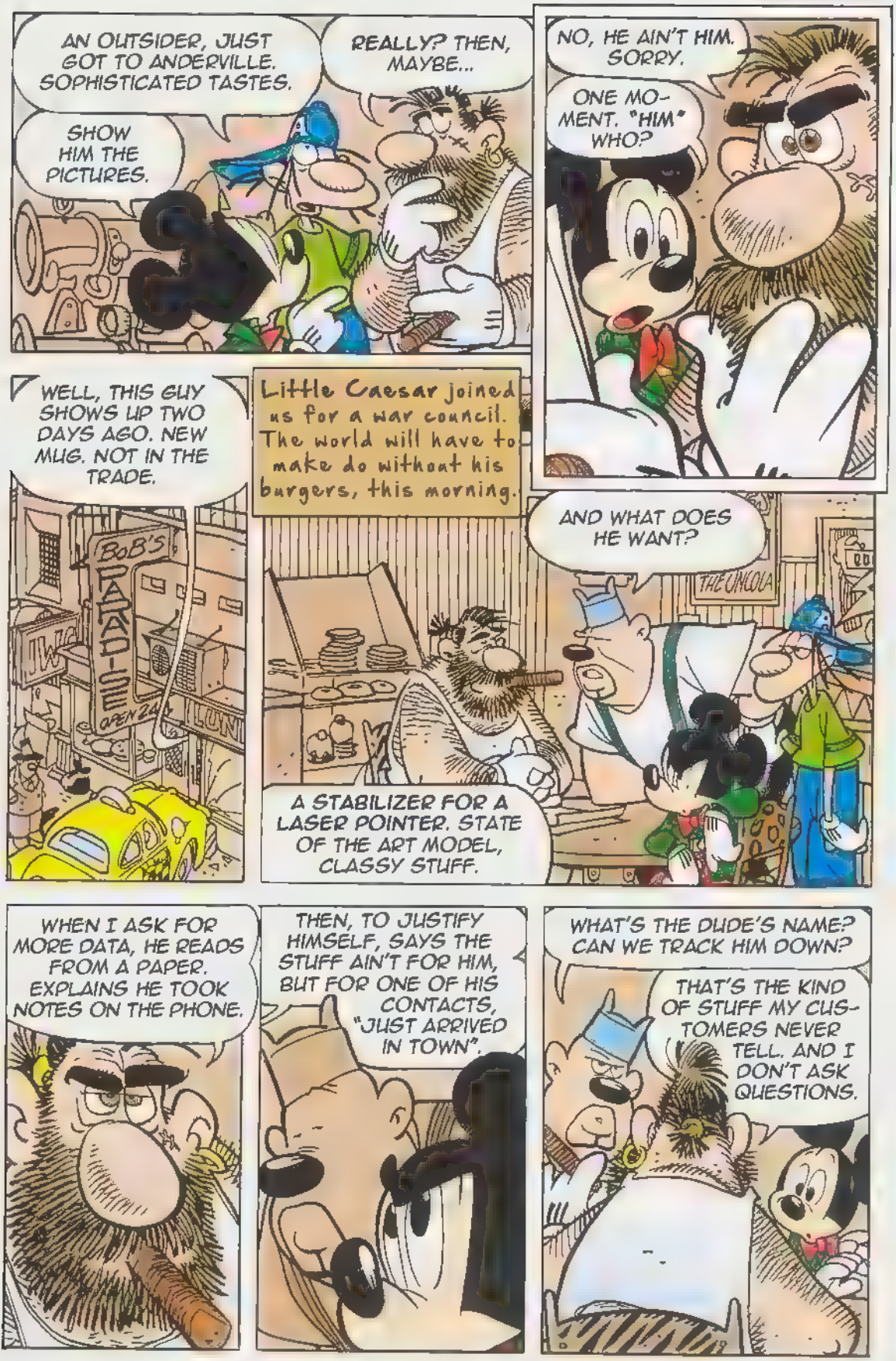
Yet, while we pass from one... information point to the other, Anderville and I get to know each other.

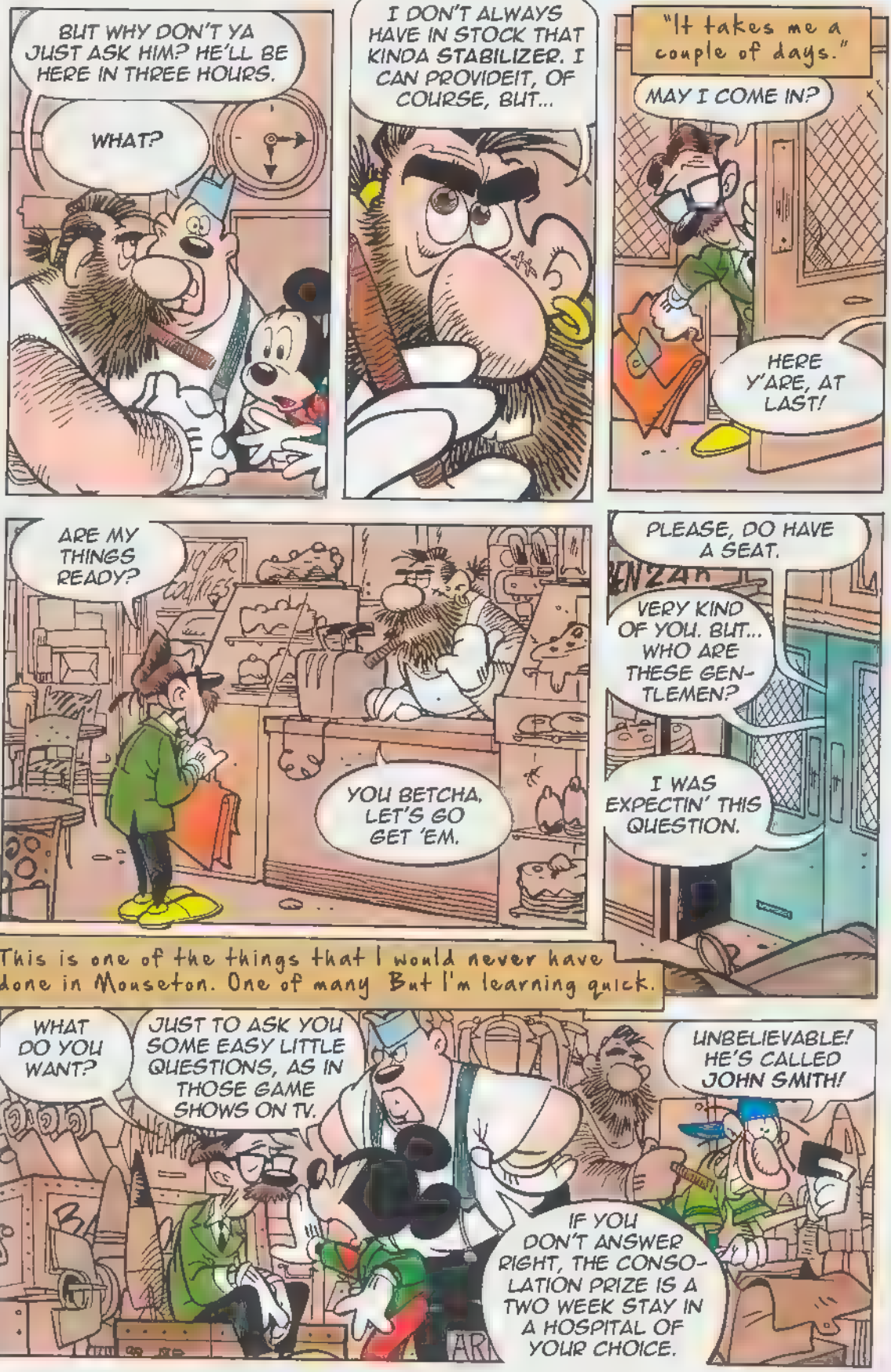

BAH! WHAT A STRANGE DUDE!
NEVER SEEN HIM, BURKE. WE'LL PASS THE FLIERS 'ROUND, JUST IN CASE.
IF SOMETHING DOES TURN OUT, JUST RING LITTLE CAESAR.

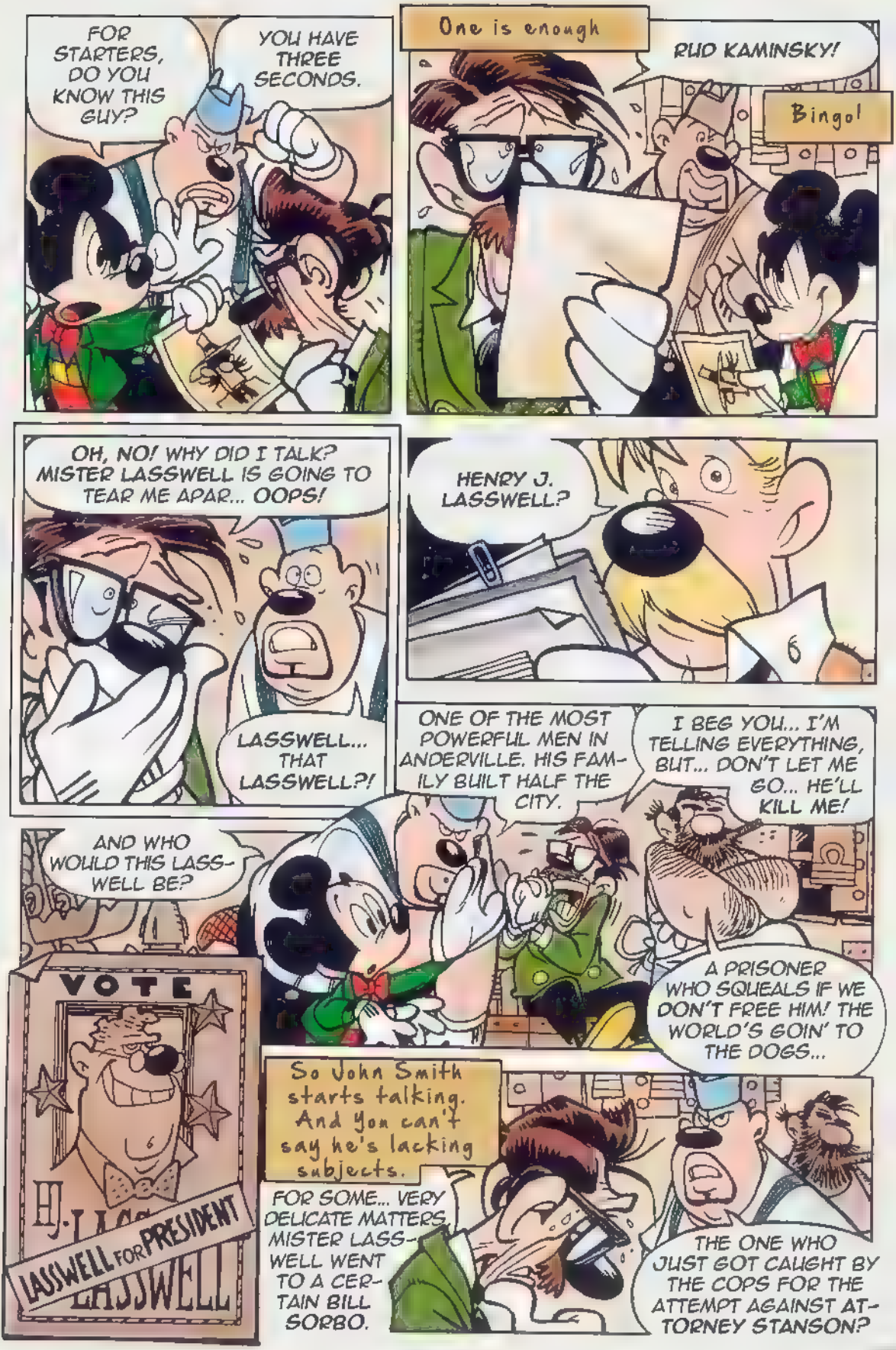
BAH! THE FRAMING IS SO DULL... BUT THE UNAESTHETIC XEROXING GIVES A NEO-POP-TRASH TOUCH TO IT, THAT REMINDS ME OF...
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
COOL EARS! WHO DID YOU TAKE AFTER?
MY PATERNAL UNCLE. THE EYES, INSTEAD...

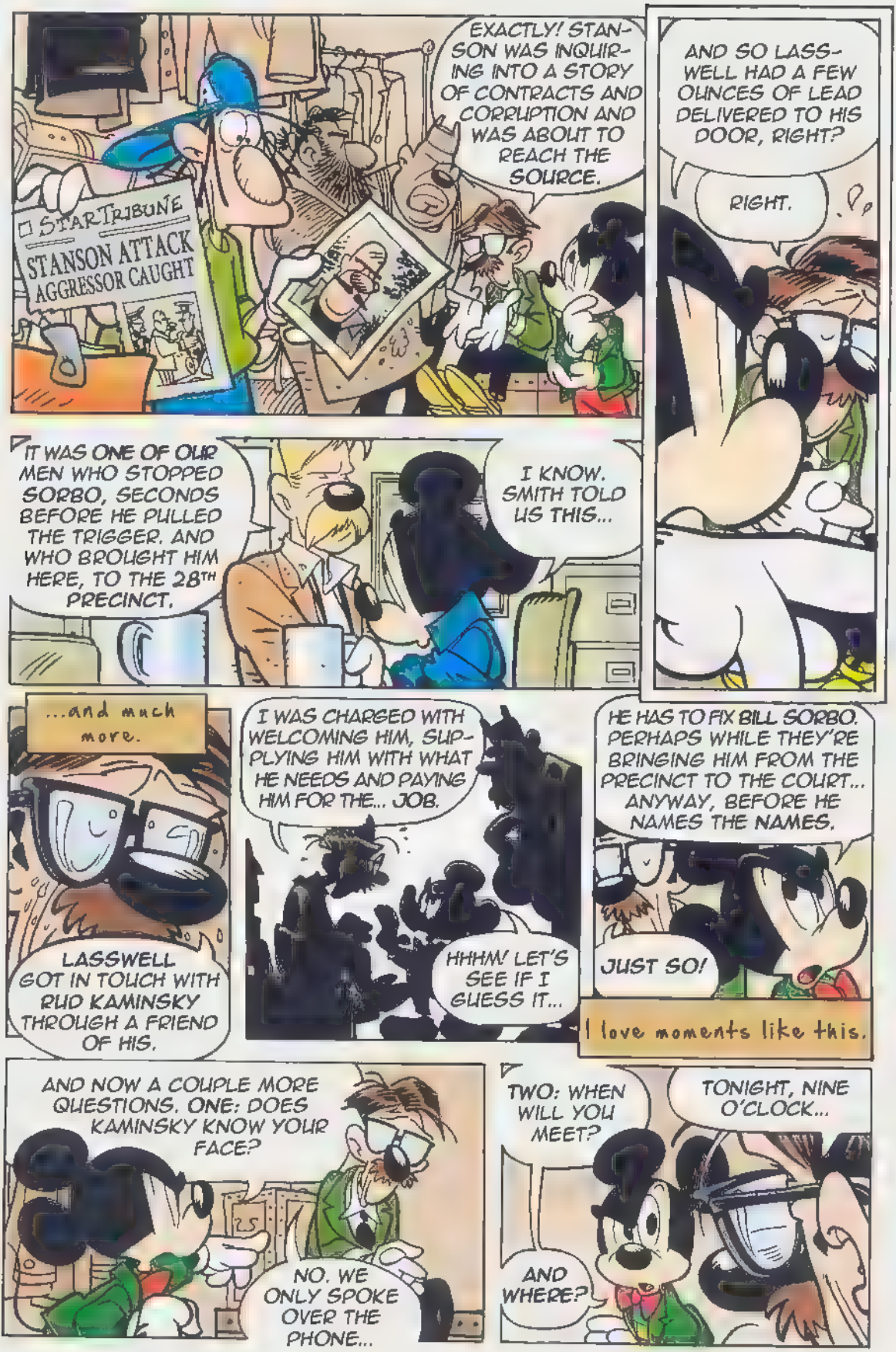

WHAT HAPPENED TO ORIENTAL COURTESY? I JUST STOMPED A FEET TO THAT GUY WITH THE WHITE BATHROBE. IT COULD HAPPEN TO ANYONE...
NOT WHILE PARKING.
441 BRO
THE UPSE PAND
KUNG FU-KAR
WE KNEW WE COULD COUNT ON YOUR KINDNESS AND GOODWILL.
I CAN'T DENY LITTLE CAESAR A FAVOR. I'LL TELL THE GUYS TO SEARCH THIS FELLA.
IF WE FIND HIM... SHOULD WE TEACH HIM A LESSON?
YOU'RE HERE FOR THE CURRANT PUFFS, AIN'T YA?
THEY'RE VERY GOOD, Y'KNOW? NO ONE EVER WANNA TRY 'EM...
NO, BOB.
BOB'S
PARADISE
OPEN 24
WE'LL MAKE A HI RES SCAN, CRYPT IT IN BIN HEX AND THEN POST IT ON THE ALT.ANDERVILLE. CONSPIRACY BBS!
IF YOU SAY SO...

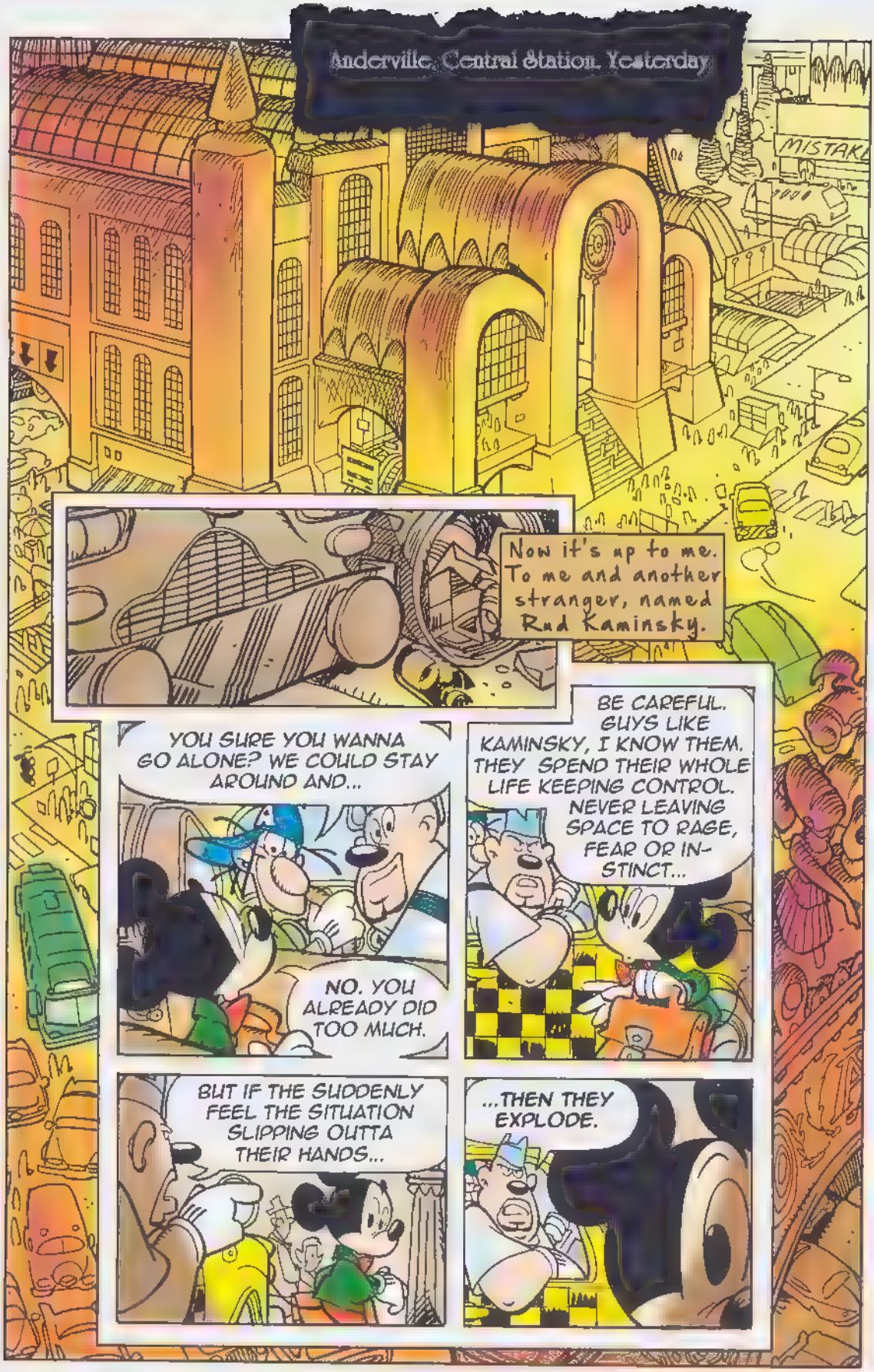

GET OVER IT. YOU MAY BE A GOOD PASTRY CHEF, BUT YOU LACK THE "PHYSIQUE DU RÔLE".
AND WHERE D'YOU BUY IT?
WHATEVER. WHAT D'YOU NEED?
YOU'RE LUCKY. TODAY YOU BUY TWO, GET ONE FREE.
WE DON'T WANNA BUY ANYTHING.
WE'RE LOOKING FOR INFO, 'BOUT SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE YOUR CLIENT...
YOU KNOW I CAN'T GIVE IT. IT'S AGAINST MY WORK ETHIC.
...FOR LITTLE CAESAR.
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. WHO ARE YA SEEKIN'?

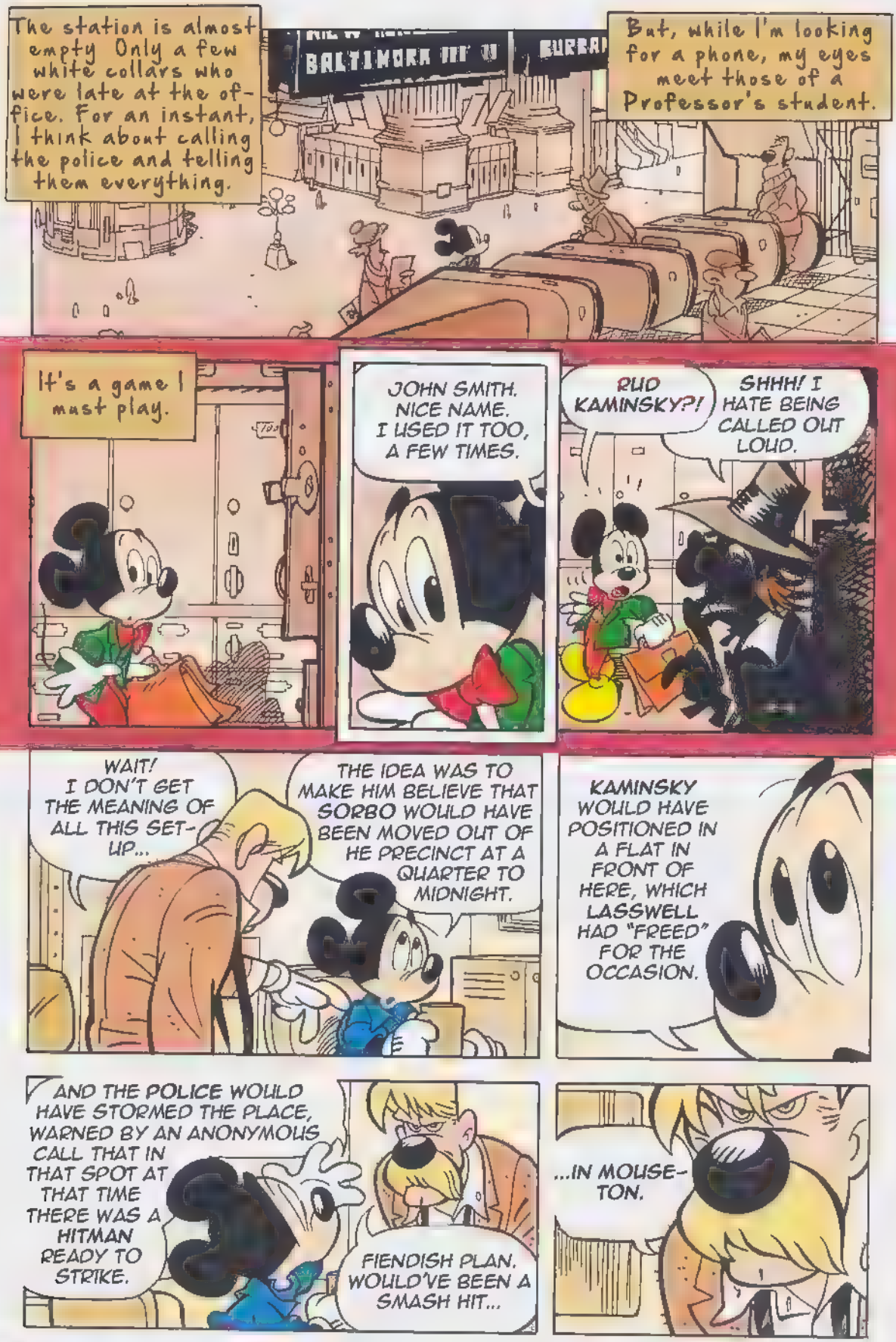

AN OUTSIDER, JUST GOT TO ANDERVILLE. SOPHISTICATED TASTES.
REALLY? THEN, MAYBE...
SHOW HIM THE PICTURES.
NO, HE AIN'T HIM. SORRY.
ONE MOMENT. "HIM" WHO?
WELL, THIS GUY SHOWS UP TWO DAYS AGO. NEW MUG. NOT IN THE TRADE.
BOB'S PARADISE
OPEN 24
Little Caesar joined us for a war council. The world will have to make do without his burgers, this morning.
AND WHAT DOES HE WANT?
THE ONCOLA
A STABILIZER FOR A LASER POINTER. STATE OF THE ART MODEL, CLASSY STUFF.
WHEN I ASK FOR MORE DATA, HE READS FROM A PAPER. EXPLAINS HE TOOK NOTES ON THE PHONE.
THEN, TO JUSTIFY HIMSELF, SAYS THE STUFF AIN'T FOR HIM, BUT FOR ONE OF HIS CONTACTS, "JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN".
WHAT'S THE DUDE'S NAME? CAN WE TRACK HIM DOWN?
THAT'S THE KIND OF STUFF MY CUSTOMERS NEVER TELL. AND I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS.

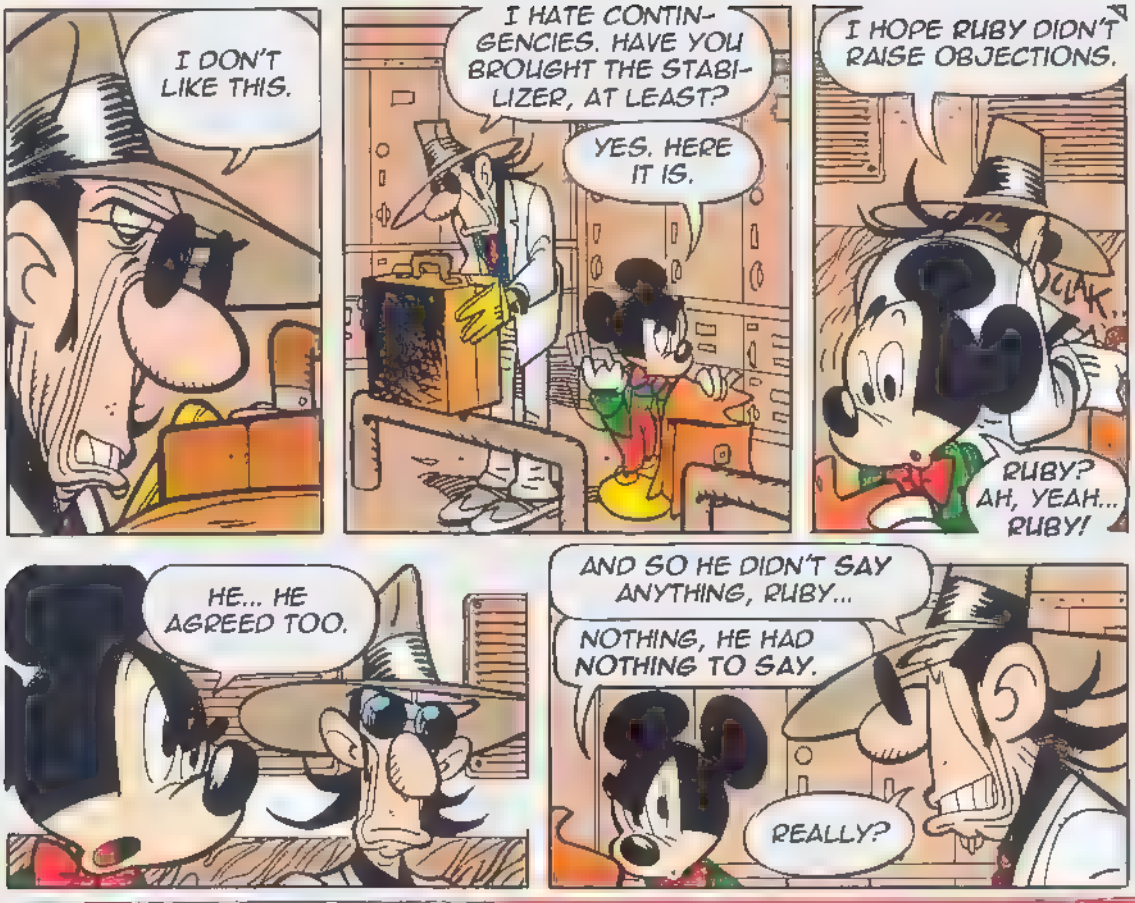

BUT WHY DON'T YA JUST ASK HIM? HE'LL BE HERE IN THREE HOURS.
WHAT?
I DON'T ALWAYS HAVE IN STOCK THAT KINDA STABILIZER. I CAN PROVIDEIT, OF COURSE, BUT...
"It takes me a couple of days."
MAY I COME IN?
HERE Y'ARE, AT LAST!
ARE MY THINGS READY?
YOU BETCHA. LET'S GO GET 'EM.
PLEASE, DO HAVE A SEAT.
VERY KIND OF YOU. BUT... WHO ARE THESE GENTLEMEN?
I WAS EXPECTIN' THIS QUESTION.
This is one of the things that I would never have done in Mouseton. One of many But I'm learning quick.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
JUST TO ASK YOU SOME EASY LITTLE QUESTIONS, AS IN THOSE GAME SHOWS ON TV.
UNBELIEVABLE! HE'S CALLED JOHN SMITH!
IF YOU DON'T ANSWER RIGHT, THE CONSOLATION PRIZE IS A TWO WEEK STAY IN A HOSPITAL OF YOUR CHOICE.

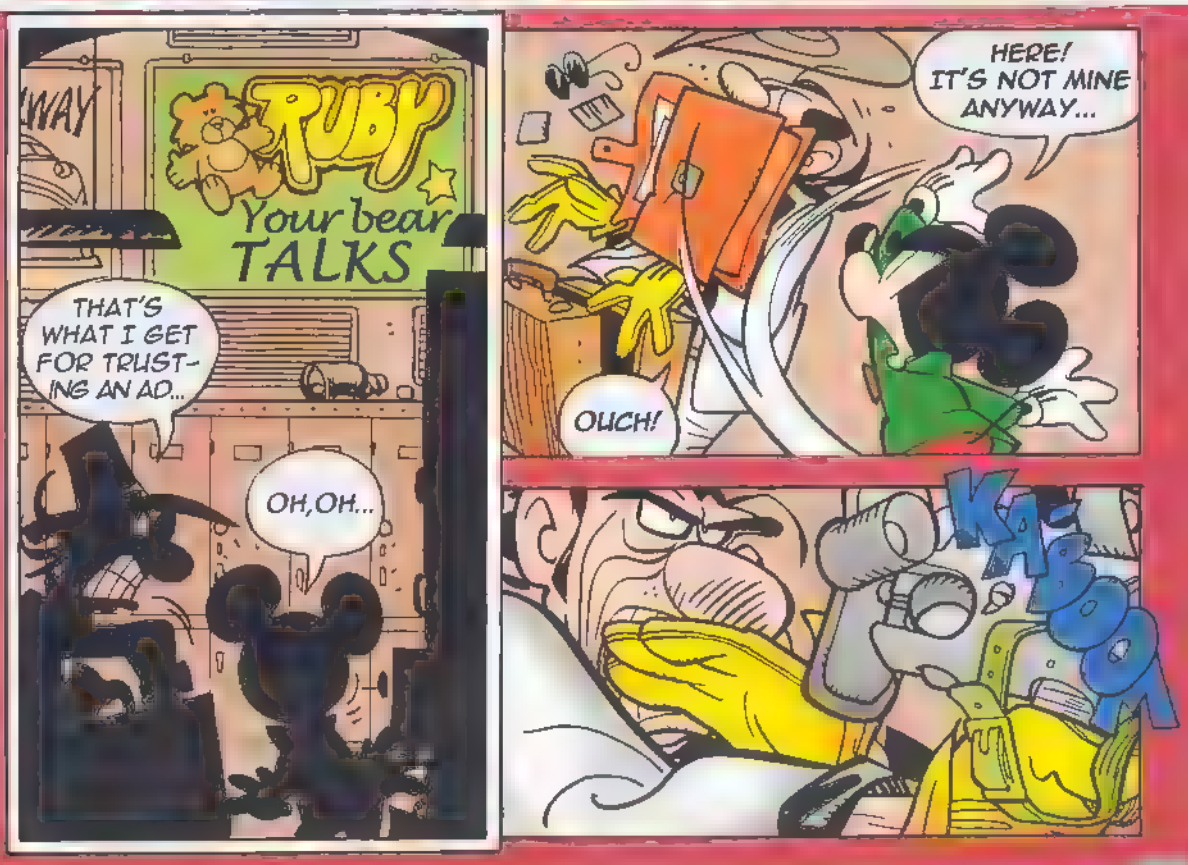

FOR STARTERS, DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS.
One is enough
RUD KAMINSKY!
Bingo!
OH, NO! WHY DID I TALK? MISTER LASSWELL IS GOING TO TEAR ME APAR... OOPS!
LASSWELL... THAT LASSWELL?!
HENRY J. LASSWELL?
ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN ANDERVILLE. HIS FAMILY BUILT HALF THE CITY.
I BEG YOU... I'M TELLING EVERYTHING, BUT... DON'T LET ME GO... HE'LL KILL ME!
AND WHO WOULD THIS LASSWELL BE?
A PRISONER WHO SQUEALS IF WE DON'T FREE HIM! THE WORLD'S GOIN' TO THE DOGS...
VOTE
LASSWELL FOR PRESIDENT
So John Smith starts talking. And you can't say he's lacking subjects.
FOR SOME... VERY DELICATE MATTERS, MISTER LASSWELL WENT TO A CERTAIN BILL SORBO.
THE ONE WHO JUST GOT CAUGHT BY THE COPS FOR THE ATTEMPT AGAINST ATTORNEY STANSON?

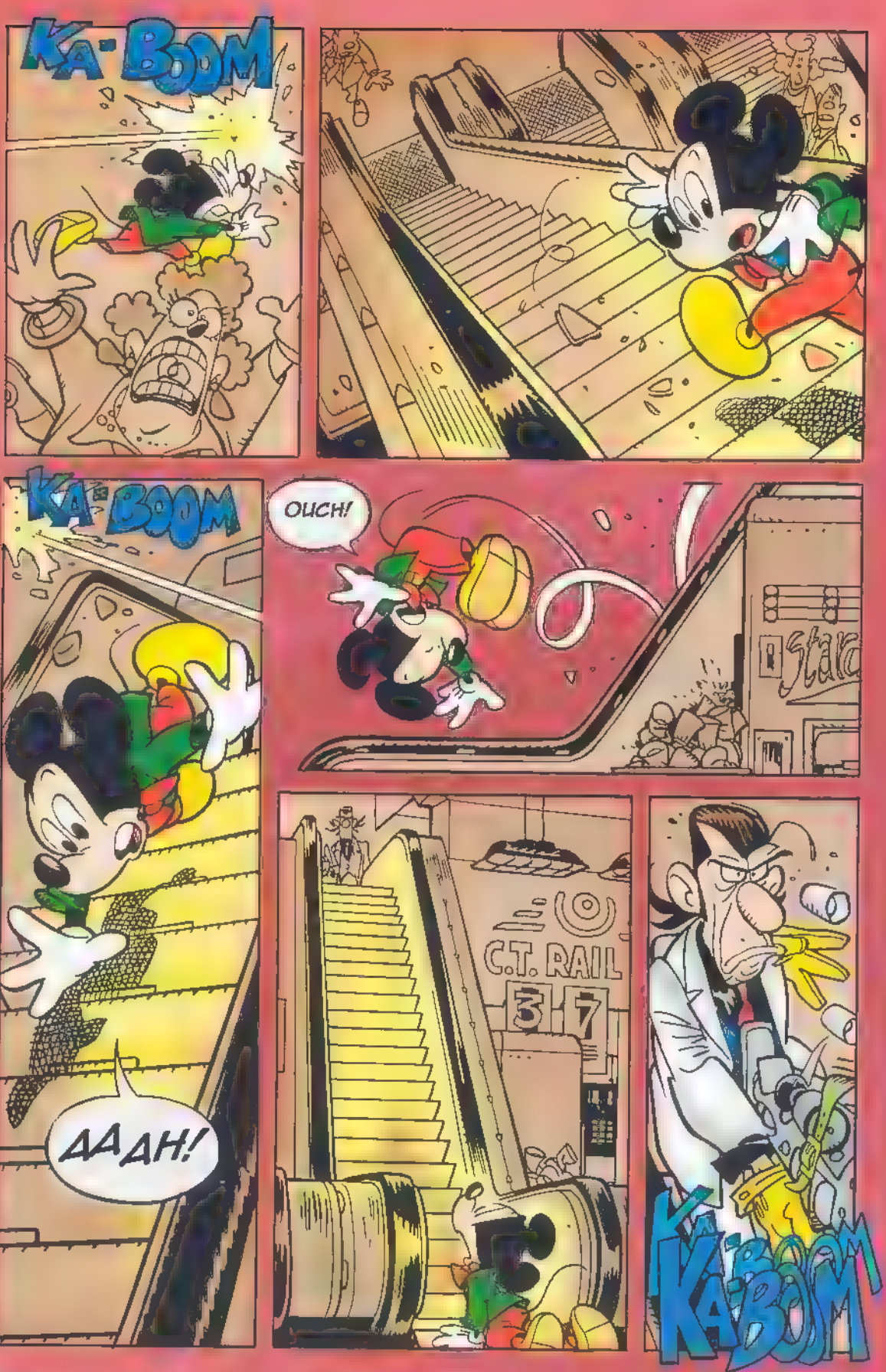

EXACTLY! STANSON WAS INQUIRING INTO A STORY OF CONTRACTS AND CORRUPTION AND WAS ABOUT TO REACH THE SOURCE.
STAR TRIBUNE
STANSON ATTACK AGGRESSOR CAUGHT
AND SO LASSWELL HAD A FEW OUNCES OF LEAD DELIVERED TO HIS DOOR, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
IT WAS ONE OF OUR MEN WHO STOPPED SORBO, SECONDS BEFORE HE PULLED THE TRIGGER. AND WHO BROUGHT HIM HERE, TO THE 28TH PRECINCT.
I KNOW. SMITH TOLD US THIS...
...and much more.
LASSWELL GOT IN TOUCH WITH RUD KAMINSKY THROUGH A FRIEND OF HIS.
I WAS CHARGED WITH WELCOMING HIM, SUPPLYING HIM WITH WHAT HE NEEDS AND PAYING HIM FOR THE... JOB.
HHHM! LET'S SEE IF I GUESS IT...
HE HAS TO FIX BILL SORBO. PERHAPS WHILE THEY'RE BRINGING HIM FROM THE PRECINCT TO THE COURT... ANYWAY, BEFORE HE NAMES THE NAMES.
JUST SO!
I love moments like this.
AND NOW A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS. ONE: DOES KAMINSKY KNOW YOUR FACE?
NO. WE ONLY SPOKE OVER THE PHONE...
TWO: WHEN WILL YOU MEET?
TONIGHT, NINE O'CLOCK...
AND WHERE?

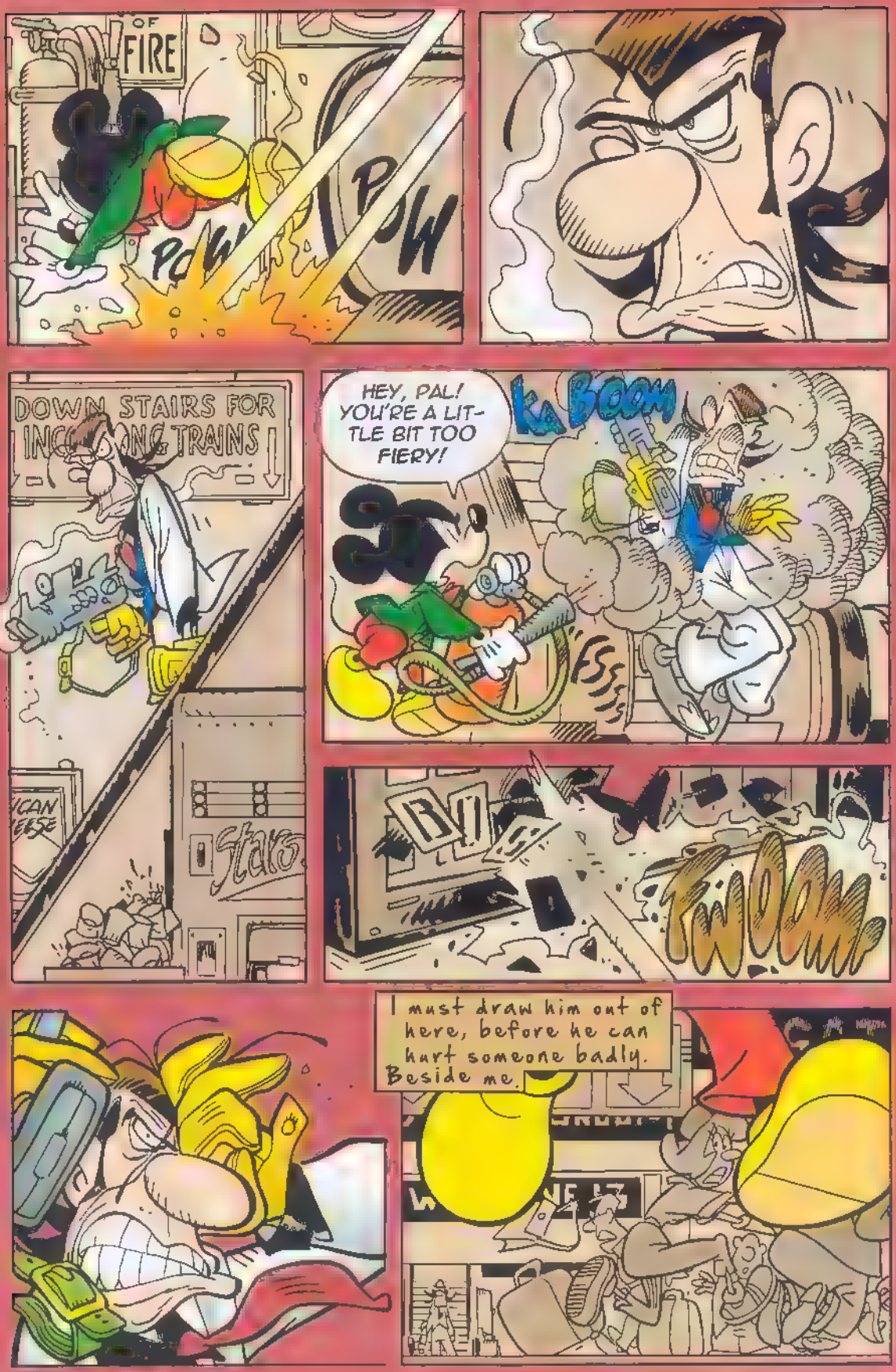

Anderville, Central Station. Yesterday
Now it's up to me. To me and another stranger, named Rud Kaminsky.
YOU SURE YOU WANNA GO ALONE? WE COULD STAY AROUND AND...
NO. YOU ALREADY DID TOO MUCH.
BE CAREFUL. GUYS LIKE KAMINSKY, I KNOW THEM. THEY SPEND THEIR WHOLE LIFE KEEPING CONTROL. NEVER LEAVING SPACE TO RAGE, FEAR OR IN-STINCT...
BUT IF THE SUDDENLY FEEL THE SITUATION SLIPPING OUTTA THEIR HANDS...
...THEN THEY EXPLODE.

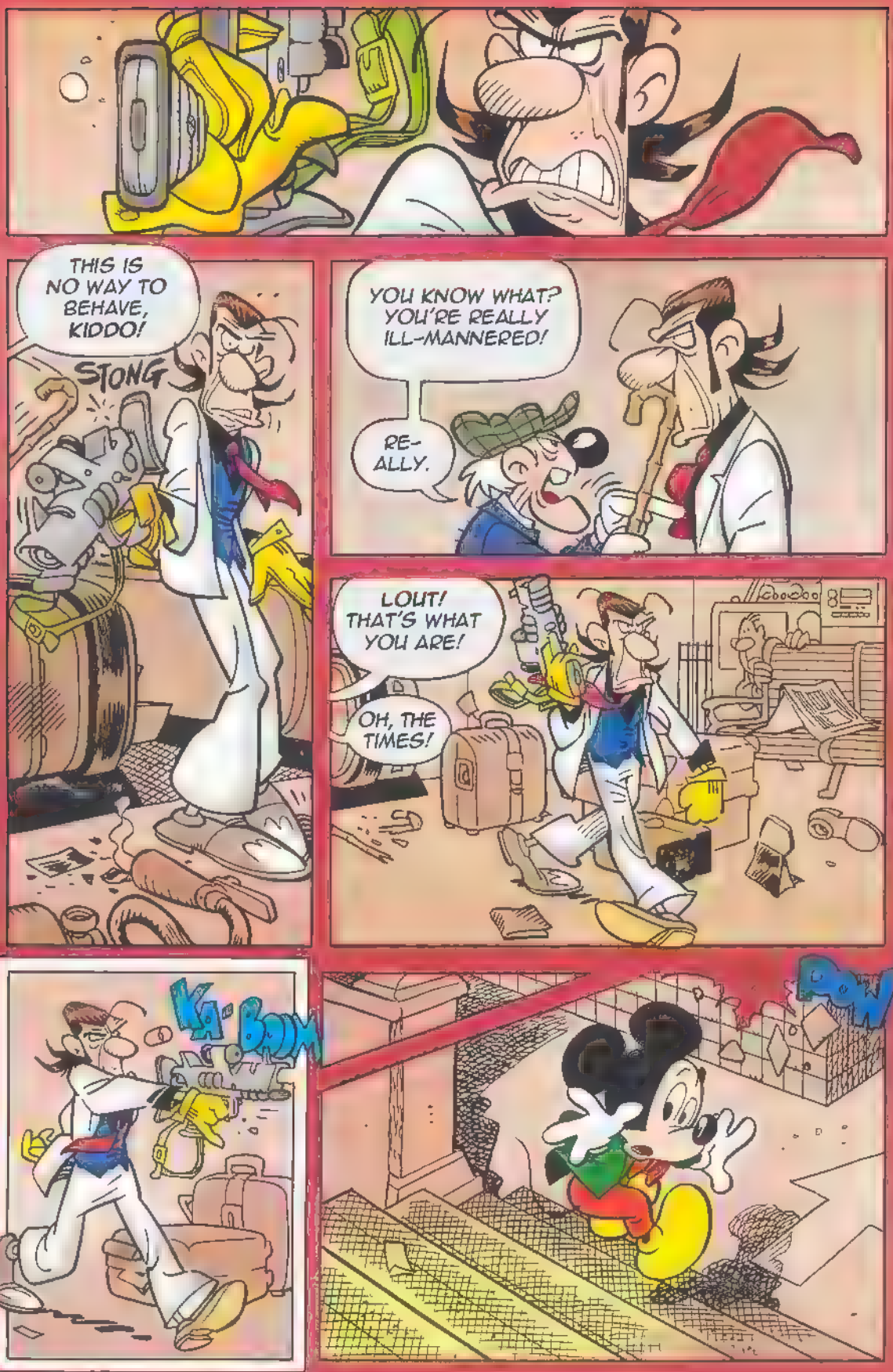

The station is almost empty. Only a few white collars who were late at the office. For an instant, I think about calling the police and telling them everything.
But, while I'm looking for a phone, my eyes meet those of a Professor's student.
It's a game I must play.
JOHN SMITH. NICE NAME. I USED IT TOO, A FEW TIMES.
RUD KAMINSKY?!
SHHH! I HATE BEING CALLED OUT LOUD.
WAIT! I DON'T GET THE MEANING OF ALL THIS SET-UP...
THE IDEA WAS TO MAKE HIM BELIEVE THAT SORBO WOULD HAVE BEEN MOVED OUT OF HE PRECINCT AT A QUARTER TO MIDNIGHT.
KAMINSKY WOULD HAVE POSITIONED IN A FLAT IN FRONT OF HERE, WHICH LASSWELL HAD "FREED" FOR THE OCCASION.
AND THE POLICE WOULD HAVE STORMED THE PLACE, WARNED BY AN ANONYMOUS CALL THAT IN THAT SPOT AT THAT TIME THERE WAS A HITMAN READY TO STRIKE.
FIENDISH PLAN. WOULD'VE BEEN A SMASH HIT...
...IN MOUSE-TON.

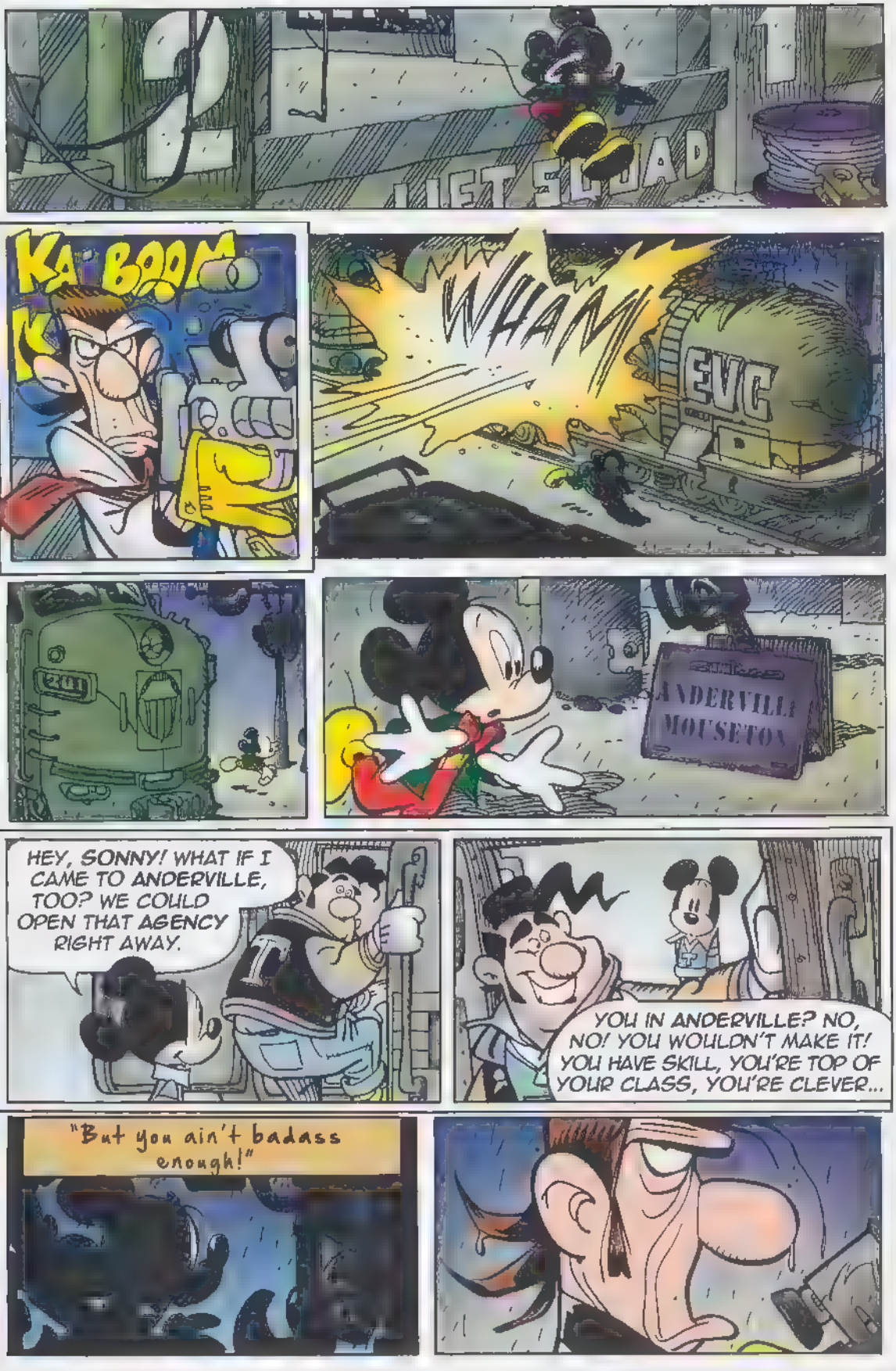

I DON'T LIKE THIS.
I HATE CONTINGENCIES. HAVE YOU BROUGHT THE STABILIZER, AT LEAST?
YES. HERE IT IS.
I HOPE RUBY DIDN'T RAISE OBJECTIONS.
CLAK...
RUBY? AH, YEAH... RUBY!
HE... HE AGREED TOO.
AND SO HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, RUBY...
NOTHING, HE HAD NOTHING TO SAY.
REALLY?

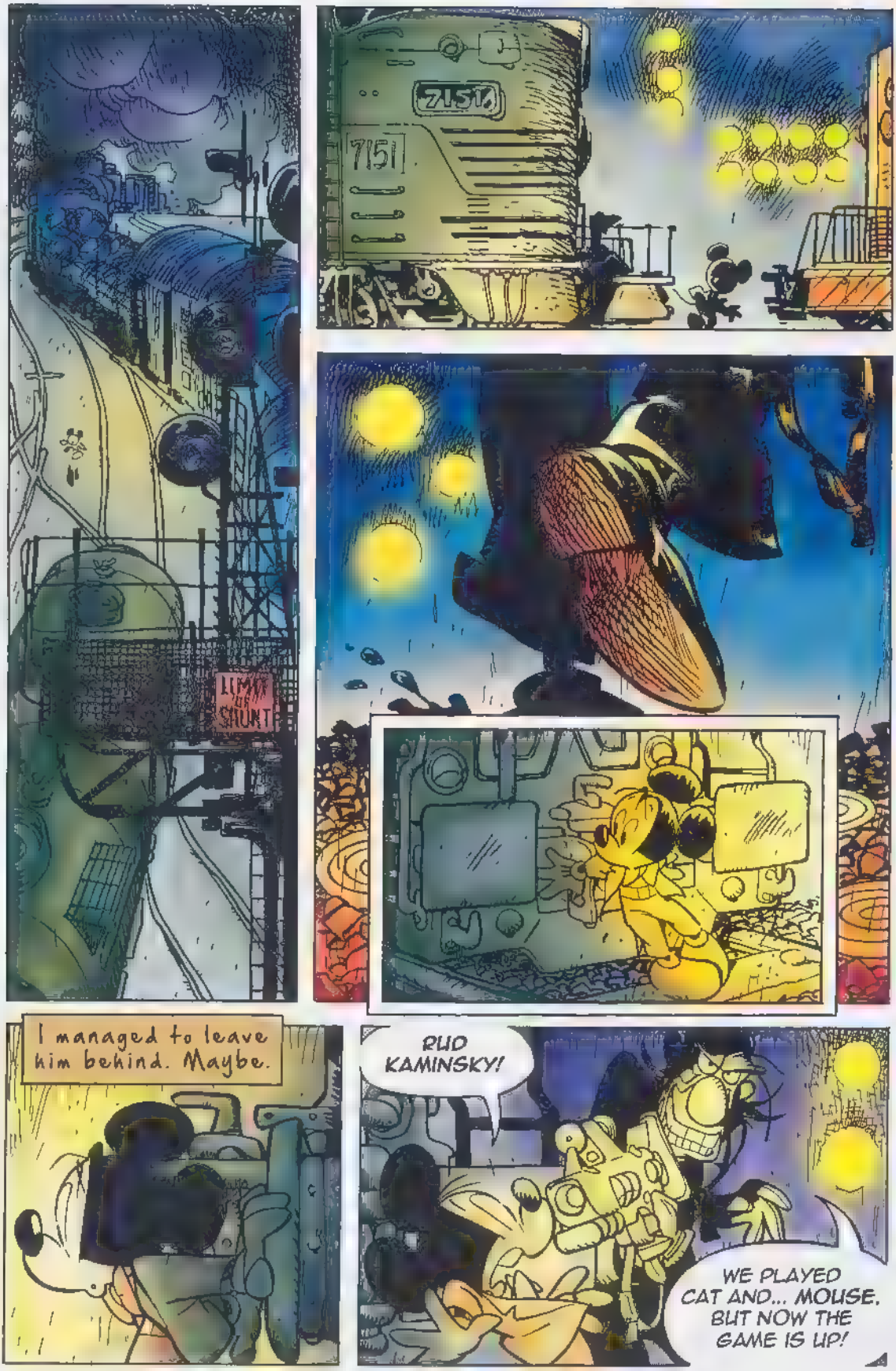

RUBY
Your bear TALKS
THAT'S WHAT I GET FOR TRUSTING AN AD...
OH, OH...
HERE! IT'S NOT MINE ANYWAY...
OUCH!
KABOOM

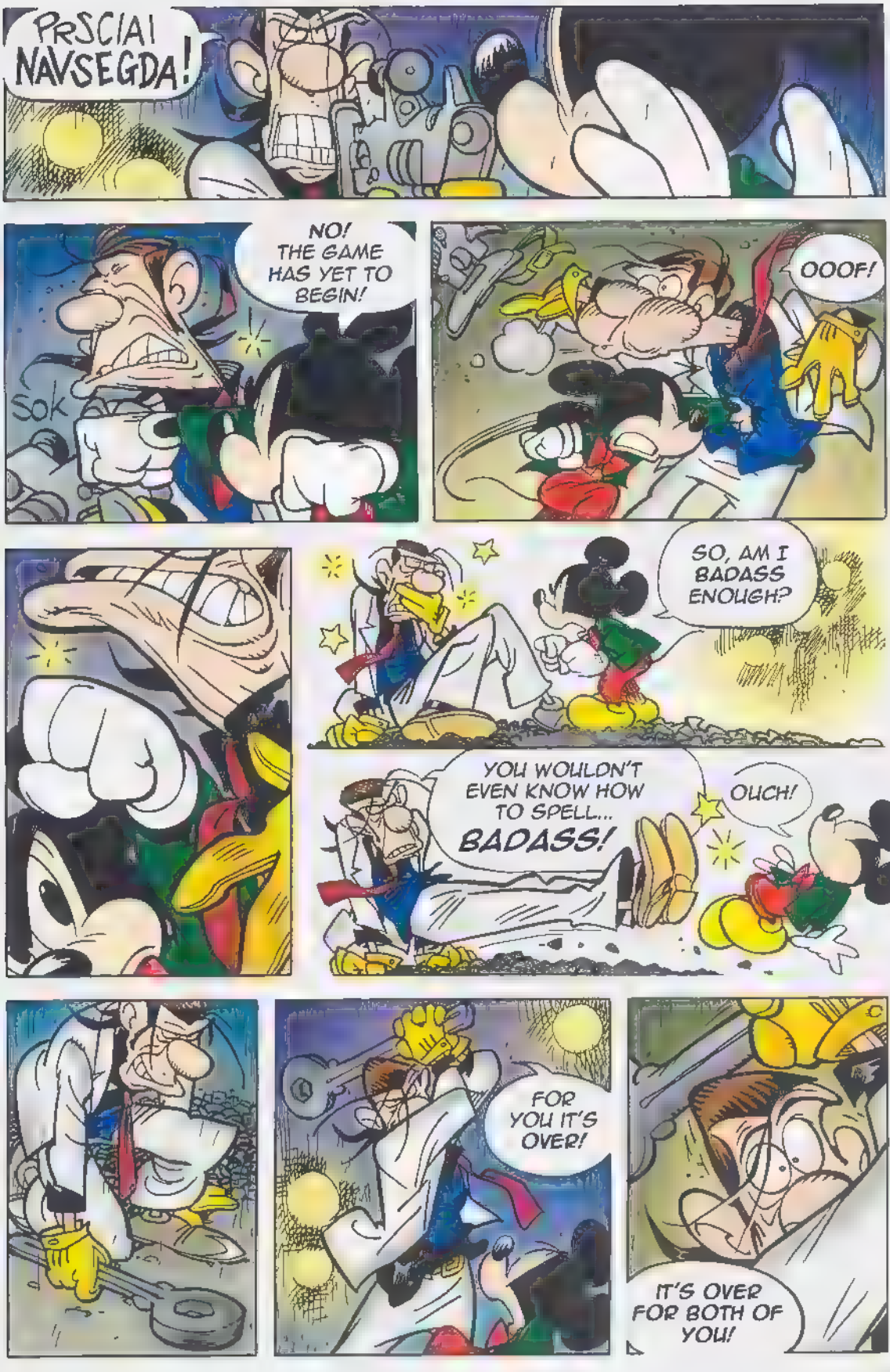

KA-BOOM
KA-BOOM
OUCH!
AAAH!
C.T. RAIL
37
KA-BOOM

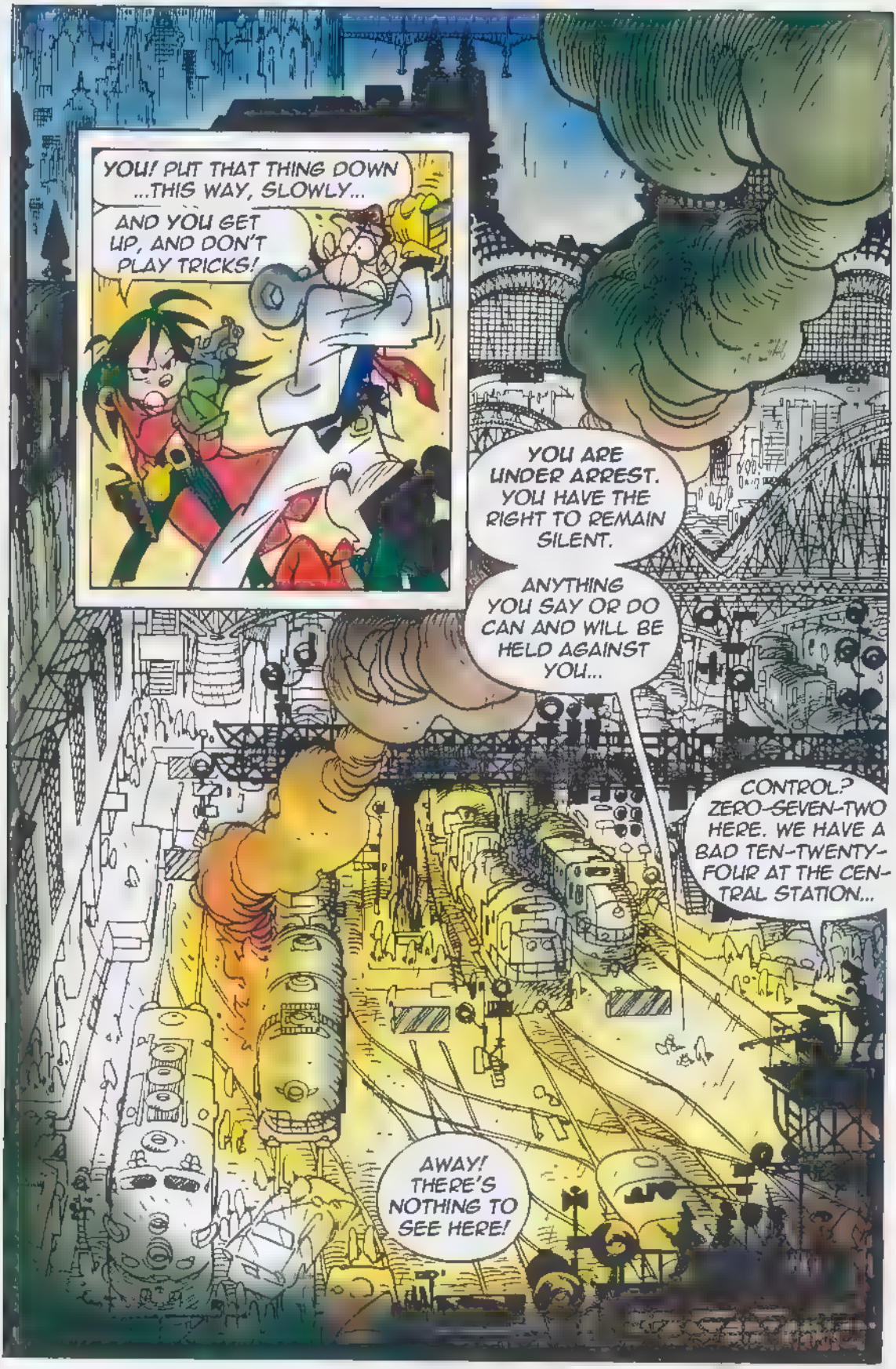

OF FIRE
POW
POW
DOWN STAIRS FOR INCOMING TRAINS
HEY, PAL! YOU'RE A LITTLE BIT TOO FIERY!
KA BOOM
FSSSS
KWOOMP
I must draw him out of here, before he can hurt someone badly. Beside me.


THIS IS NO WAY TO BEHAVE, KIDDO!
STONG
YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE REALLY ILL-MANNERED!
RE-ALLY.
LOUT! THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE!
OH, THE TIMES!
KA-BOOM
BOW

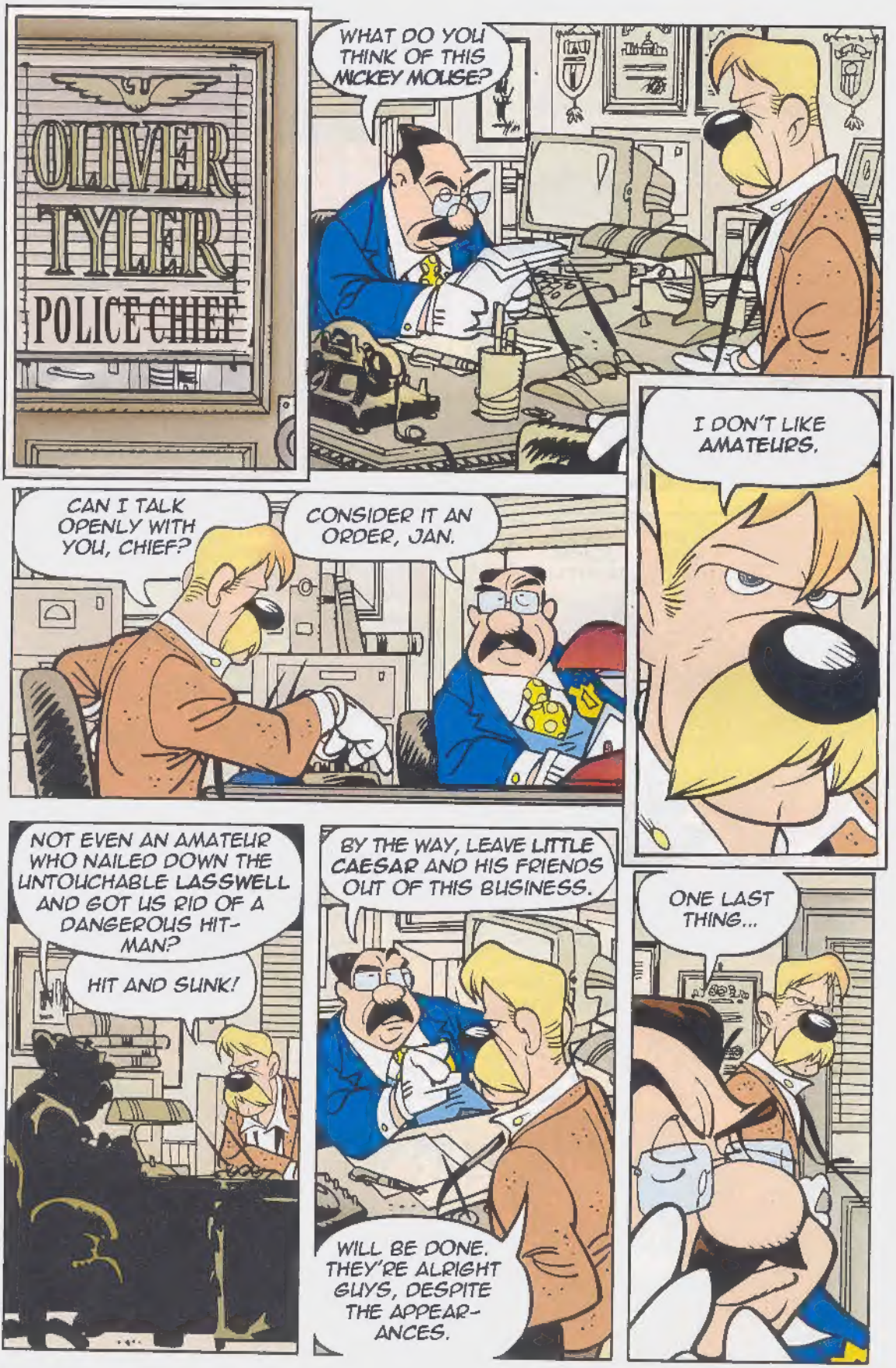

LIFT LOAD
KA-BOOM
WHAM
EVC
201
ANDERVILLE
MOUSETON
HEY, SONNY! WHAT IF I CAME TO ANDERVILLE, TOO? WE COULD OPEN THAT AGENCY RIGHT AWAY.
YOU IN ANDERVILLE? NO, NO! YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT! YOU HAVE SKILL, YOU'RE TOP OF YOUR CLASS, YOU'RE CLEVER...
"But you ain't badass enough!"

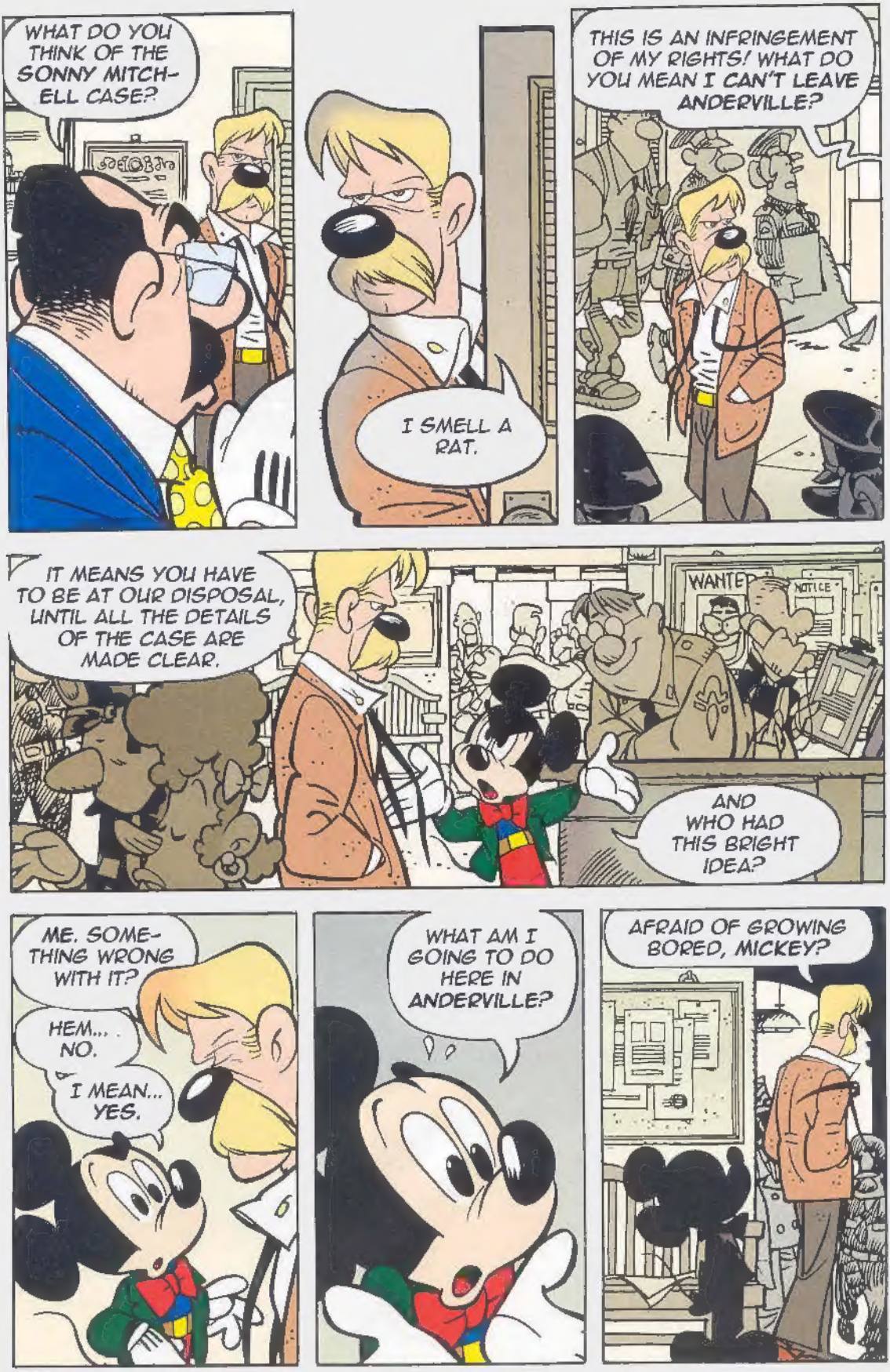

7151
7151
LUMP OF SHUNT
I managed to leave him behind. Maybe.
RUD KAMINSKY!
WE PLAYED CAT AND... MOUSE. BUT NOW THE GAME IS UP!

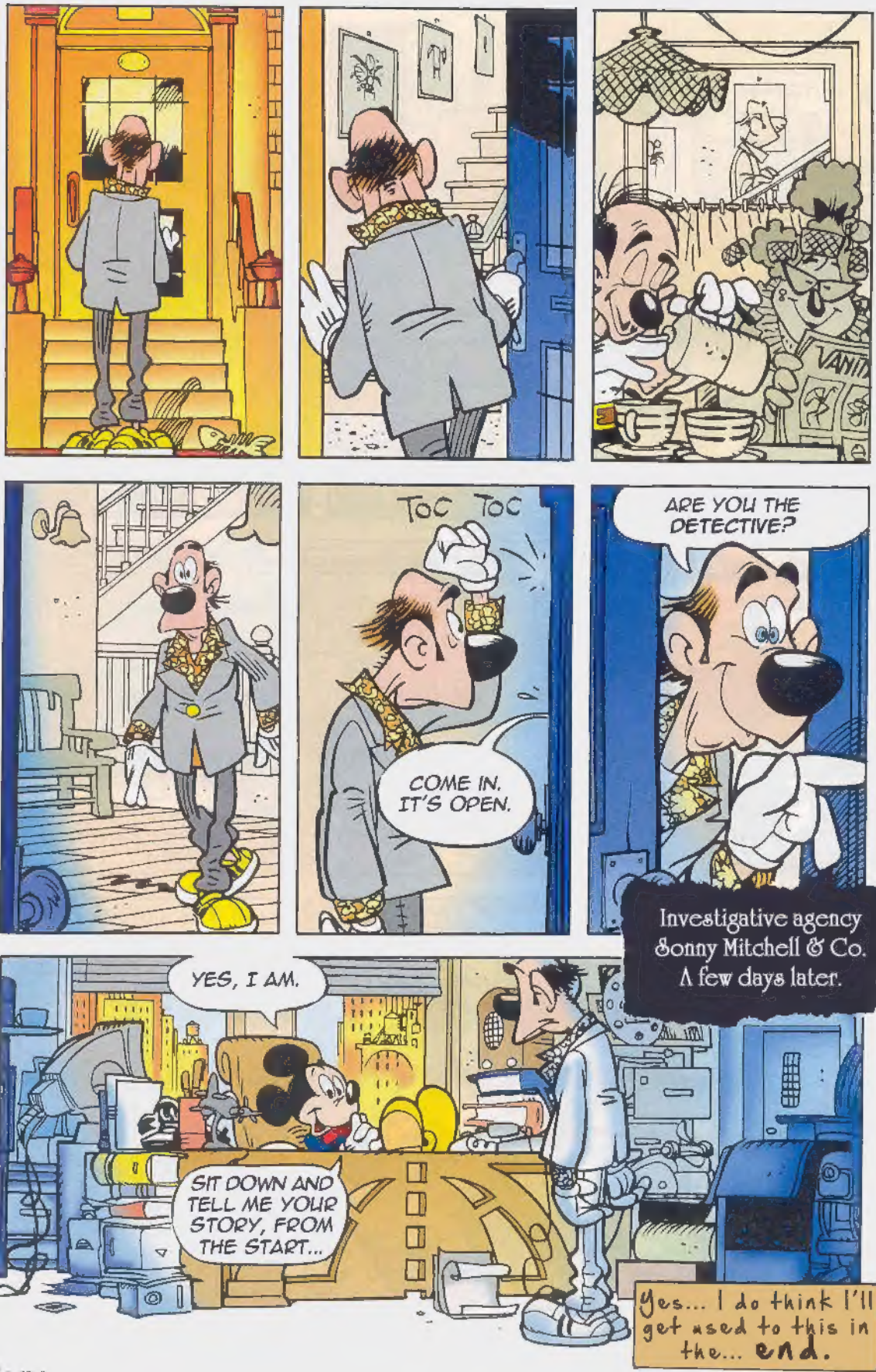

PRSCIA! NAVSEGDA!
NO! THE GAME HAS YET TO BEGIN!
SOK
OOOF!
SO, AM I BADASS ENOUGH?
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO SPELL... BADASS!
OUCH!
FOR YOU IT'S OVER!
IT'S OVER FOR BOTH OF YOU!


YOU! PUT THAT THING DOWN ...THIS WAY, SLOWLY...
AND YOU GET UP, AND DON'T PLAY TRICKS!
YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.
ANYTHING YOU SAY OR DO CAN AND WILL BE HELD AGAINST YOU...
CONTROL? ZERO-SEVEN-TWO HERE. WE HAVE A BAD TEN-TWENTY-FOUR AT THE CENTRAL STATION...
AWAY! THERE'S NOTHING TO SEE HERE!

YOU KNOW THE REST ALREADY. THEY BROUGHT ME HERE AND A DETECTIVE INTERROGATED ME.
THEN, I ARRIVED.
JAN, CAN YOU COME OUT A SEC, PLEASE?
YOU KNOW I CAN'T STAND BEING INTERRUPT...
KAMINSKY CONFESSED IN CHANGE OF A SHORTENED SENTENCE. HIS VERSION FITS PERFECTLY WITH MOUSE'S ONE.
MOREOVER, GUESS WHO SHOWED UP TWO HOURS AGO. ONE... JOHN SMITH.
THAT JOHN SMITH?
HE CAUGHT WIND OF KAMINSKY'S CAPTURE AND HE RAN TO TESTIFY AGAINST LASSWELL.
AH, THE TAXI HE CAME WITH SMASHED INTO THE SIDE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF'S CAR.
ANYTHING ELSE?
YEP.
THE BIG BOSS WANTS TO SEE YOU. NOW.


OLIVER TYLER
POLICE CHIEF
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS MICKEY MOUSE?
I DON'T LIKE AMATEURS.
CAN I TALK OPENLY WITH YOU, CHIEF?
CONSIDER IT AN ORDER, JAN.
NOT EVEN AN AMATEUR WHO NAILED DOWN THE UNTOUCHABLE LASSWELL AND GOT US RID OF A DANGEROUS HIT-MAN?
HIT AND SUNK!
BY THE WAY, LEAVE LITTLE CAESAR AND HIS FRIENDS OUT OF THIS BUSINESS.
WILL BE DONE. THEY'RE ALRIGHT GUYS, DESPITE THE APPEAR-ANCES.
ONE LAST THING...


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SONNY MITCHELL CASE?
I SMELL A RAT.
THIS IS AN INFRINGEMENT OF MY RIGHTS! WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CAN'T LEAVE ANDERVILLE?
IT MEANS YOU HAVE TO BE AT OUR DISPOSAL, UNTIL ALL THE DETAILS OF THE CASE ARE MADE CLEAR.
WANTED
NOTICE
AND WHO HAD THIS BRIGHT IDEA?
ME. SOMETHING WRONG WITH IT?
HEM... NO.
I MEAN... YES.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO HERE IN ANDERVILLE?
AFRAID OF GROWING BORED, MICKEY?


TOC TOC
COME IN. IT'S OPEN.
ARE YOU THE DETECTIVE?
Investigative agency Sonny Mitchell & Co. A few days later.
YES, I AM.
SIT DOWN AND TELL ME YOUR STORY, FROM THE START...
Yes... I do think I'll get used to this in the... end.

Anderville News Pione
CAR FOUND ABLAZE NEAR MEXICAN B
THE CHARRED CHEVROLET FOUND IN A GORGE BELONGED TO SONNY MITCHELL, THE PRIVATE EYE MISSING SINCE LAST MONTH
RENOVATIO
WORLD OF
her conditions at the time of accident were excellent. It's be- the driver fell asleep or lost ousness while at the wheel, the car to crash through a rrier at Km. No. 3 of Carre- fral and to plounge into the nny Mitchell vanished wi- from Anderville last probe is trying to that time